Trade and Industry

20 May 1977 35p

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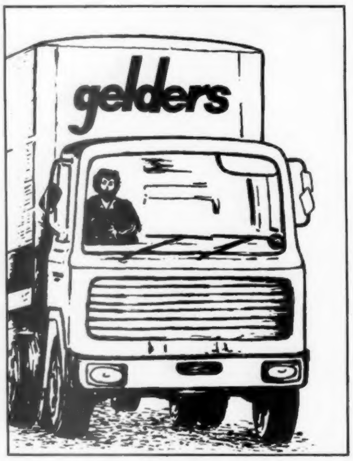
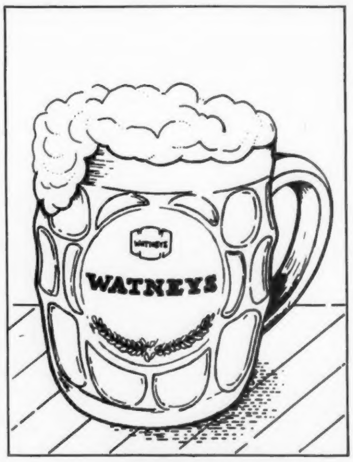
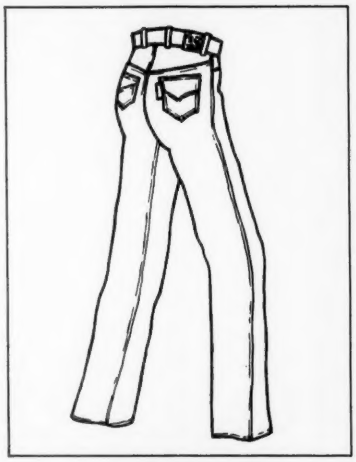
DISPERSAL FACTORS IN NORTHAMPTON







gelders

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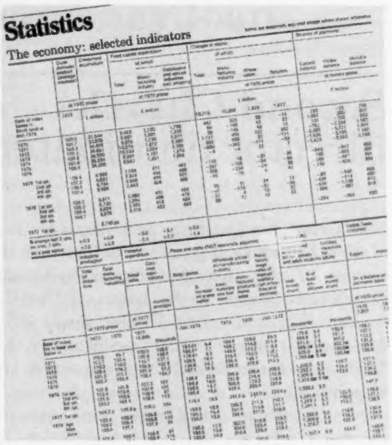
Trade and Industry

20 May 1977

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection


Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Everybody needs facts and figures. 'Trade and Industry' is the official source of many industrial and trade statistics vital to the businessman.

Trade and Industry

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ABC

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Trade and Industry this week

HOME

More R & D contracts with industry

Transfer of existing technology into industrial processes is emphasised in the Department of Industry's Report on Research and Development, 1974 to 1976, which was published on Tuesday. This transfer is to be backed up increasingly by the placing of more R and D contracts with industry. The research and development requirement boards welcome R and D proposals from industry, particularly in those areas to which the boards are assigning priority. (Transfer of technology is discussed in a feature on page 326).

In 1976-77 gross expenditure will have been close to £107 million, the report points out. Overall R and D on engineering materials showed significant budget increases between 1974 and 1977. More research and development is being undertaken in non-ferrous metals, with estimated spends of £246,000 in 1976-77, foundry technology, now over £350,000, and corrosion, up from £233,000 to £359,000, as well as on non-metallic materials such as ceramics, and rubber and plastics, each taking almost £200,000, and glass, £81,000 in 1976-77. Engineering design takes an increasing share of the mechanical engineering budget, up from £353,000 to £706,000, and spending on production techniques and testing both rise by a half, to £1,659,000 and £1,225,000, respectively. Health and safety aspects such as noise and vibration also show increased spending.

REPORT ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT 1974-76. 1977. HMSO, price £1.25.

Air service talks

Patrick Shovelton (left) and Alan Boyd, the leaders, respectively, of the UK and US delegations which are meeting this week in London for the sixth round of talks to reach agreement on north Atlantic air services. Britain's purpose, as Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, comments on page 322, is to replace the agreement which expires on 22 June with one which enables British airlines to compete on level terms with American competition.

New tasks for LOB

Two new tasks for the Location of Offices Bureau were announced by Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, in the House of Commons on Tuesday. The tasks are, first, attracting international concerns so that they locate office employment in Great Britain and, second, giving particular attention to the promotion of office employment in inner urban areas including London.

Nearly £900m to preserve jobs

Since April 1975 more than £890 million has been allocated by the government to help protect jobs, Leslie Huckfield, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Industry, told the annual conference of the National Society of Metal Mechanics in Llandudno on Monday.

He pointed out that the temporary employment subsidy, with expenditure so far of just over £220 million, was protecting nearly 200,000 jobs and had been extended to March next year. The job release scheme was helping more than 10,000 people, he said; the work experience programme 8,000; community industry 4,000; the youth employment subsidy over 13,000; and the job creation programme, with a total allocation of £130 million, was providing more than 39,000 jobs. In addition, special training measures were helping a further 35,000 people, quite apart from the estimated 90,000 people who would train this year in the expanded training opportunities scheme.

Over their life it was estimated that these special employment and training measures would benefit about 750,000 people, at a gross cost of nearly £900 million, Mr Huckfield said.

Ozalid: inspectors appointed

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, has appointed Neil McLaren Butter, of Carpmael Building, Temple, London EC4, and Brian Allen Kemp, of St Martin's House, 16 St Martin's-le-Grand, London EC1, under section 165(b) of the Companies Act 1948, as amended, as inspectors to investigate and report on the affairs of Ozalid Group Holdings Ltd.

Second Chrysler director nominated

Roy Grantham has been nominated by Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, as the second of the two government-nominated directors to serve on the board of Chrysler United Kingdom until 31 December 1979. Making the announcement on Monday, Mr Varley said the board had approved the appointment.

Mr Grantham, who is 50, has been the general secretary of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (APEX) since 1970. He is also an executive member of the European Movement of the Labour Committee for Europe and of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and he serves on the Council for National Academic Awards.

Under the terms of the agreement dated 5 January 1976 between the Secretary of State for Industry, Chrysler United Kingdom (CUK) and Chrysler Corporation, the Secretary of State for Industry has the right to nominate two directors to the board of CUK subject to CUK approval. The directorships are part-time and carry the normal duties of company directors. Claude Birch was nominated as the first of the government-nominated directors in March 1976.

Onshore petroleum exploration extended

A further 14 onshore licences authorising the exploration for petroleum, oil and gas, in north Yorkshire, Cleveland and the south-east of England have been awarded by Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy. The licences authorise the searching for oil and gas by prospecting and geological survey, including drilling to a depth of not more than 350m to obtain geological information. The licensees are Consolidated Gold Fields Ltd, Conoco Ltd, Carless Exploration Ltd, Marinex Petroleum Ltd, Canadian Export Gas and Oil (UK) Ltd, and Hadson UK Onshore Ltd.

Exploration for oil and gas on land has been going on in the United Kingdom for at least 60 years. Seventy-one similar licences have been issued since 1973. Of these 69 are still extant. In 1976, landward production of oil was about 100,000 tons.

OVERSEAS

ECGD guarantees first foreign currency loan

ECGD has guaranteed the repayment and availability of funds for its first buyer credit loan in a foreign currency. The loan – a $40 million line of credit for which the financial agreement was signed in Dubai on Tuesday – has been arranged by Morgan Grenfell and Co Ltd acting on behalf of a syndicate of banks for the ruler of Dubai.

This significant development in export credit financing follows the announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 15 December last of the government's intention to encourage a switch from sterling to foreign currency financing for UK exports on medium and long-term credit. Details of the scheme were announced by the Secretary of State for Trade on 1 February this year.

The aim of the measures is to encourage exporters to take advantage of a form of export financing which brings benefits to the balance of payments (through the impact of such external borrowing on the capital account) and which, because it does not require refinancing, reduces the burden on public expenditure. In addition, the use of foreign currency may allow exporters to quote more competitive prices if the currency concerned is at a premium in the forward market.

The $40 million line of credit arranged by Morgan Grenfell and Co Ltd will help finance UK supplies for the construction of a gas gathering and processing plant at Jebel Ali for the Dubai Natural Gas Co Ltd (Dugas). The banks in the syndicate are the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Lloyds Bank International Ltd, Morgan Grenfell and Co Ltd, International Westminster Bank Ltd and the Royal Bank of Canada.

The main contractor is McDermott Middle East Trading Ltd of Houston, USA, who will be responsible for the design, engineering, procurement of equipment and commissioning of the complex. Equipment for the plant will be supplied by firms in Belgium, France, West Germany and Japan as well as in the USA and UK.

The loan will help finance contracts placed in the UK by Dugas for the provision of tanks, pressure vessels, compressors, generators, pumps and other equipment. UK suppliers will receive 80 per cent of the contract price from the loan. The balance of the finance will be provided from a Eurodollar loan. Banks and exporters interested in this facility should contact John Magnus of Morgan Grenfell, tel. 01-588 4545.

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USSR shotgun probe closed

An undertaking regarding future price levels of 12-bore, single-barrelled shotguns has been received by the Department of Trade from the USSR, following an investigation which had revealed dumping and injury to the UK shotgun industry.

The department announced on Wednesday that it was therefore closing this investigation into allegations of dumping of single-barrelled shotguns.

The Department of Trade has also conducted an investigation into allegations of dumping of 12-bore, double-barrelled shotguns and concluded that neither dumping nor injury has been proved. The application for anti-dumping action has therefore been rejected.

Further information can be obtained from General Division, Department of Trade, tel. 01-215 5756.

Iron and steel surveillance

Iron and steel products imported from non-EEC countries will require surveillance licences from 25 May 1977. The Department of Trade is implementing measures to monitor imports into the community contained in commission recommendation no. 77/330/ECSC. See the notice to importers on page 344.

Soviet contract for Davy Powergas

A contract worth more than $250 million for two methanol plants to be supplied to the Soviet Union was signed in London this week.

Davy Powergas Ltd is to design, commission and build the plants, believed to be the world's largest, and ICI Ltd is to provide the processing technology.

Present at the signing ceremony on Tuesday was Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, and Mr Sushkov, Soviet Deputy Minister from the Department of Foreign Trade, together with representatives from the UK companies and Techmash Import of the Soviet Union.

This is the third and largest major contract to be awarded to UK companies by the Soviet Union in the last six months.

EUROPE

Sixth VAT directive adopted

The sixth directive on VAT was adopted by the council of ministers in Brussels on Monday. The directive will enable the community to finance some of its budget from VAT 'own resources' by means of a percentage of value added tax paid by member states.

Proposed amendments to UK law relating to VAT, enabling Britain to comply with obligations resulting from the directive, were announced by the Chancellor on budget day (see *Trade and Industry*, 1 April, page 811).

Commission visitor

Raymond Vouel, EEC commissioner for competition policy (right), with Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, in London on Monday. During his visit to the UK (from 15 to 18 May) the commissioner met ministers in the Departments of Industry and Prices and Consumer Protection and the Director General of the Office of Fair Trading. He also visited the Govan shipyard in Glasgow and British Leyland's Triumph factory in Canley.

Home news

New consumer credit powers implemented

Consumers will soon gain new protection in the field of credit and hire.

In reply to a parliamentary question on 16 May, John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, outlined the provisions of a new order* that will implement sections of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 dealing with the joint liability of supplier and creditor, canvassing of cash loans, unsolicited credit cards, and sending of circulars to minors.

From 1 July this year a creditor who has an arrangement with a supplier to provide credit for the supplier's clients, under a 'regulated agreement' will be made liable with that supplier for any misrepresentation or breach of contract by the supplier. This means, for example, that a consumer will be able to claim against a creditor if a supplier goes into liquidation.

From 1 October it will normally be an offence to approach consumers anywhere except on trade premises with a suggestion that they should take on cash loans (known as debtor-creditor agreements) unless this has been requested by the consumer in writing.

Other measures that will come into force on 1 July will make it illegal to send out credit cards that have not been requested and to send documents relating to credit or hire to someone under 18.

* Copies of the order, The Consumer Credit Act 1974 (Commencement No. 3) Order 1977 ; SI 1977/802 (C.30), are not yet available from HMSO.

Consumer Credit Act 1974 (Commencement no. 3) Order 1977 : summary of provisions

Joint liability of supplier and creditor

From 1 July 1977 section 75 of the act is made effective and will give consumers protection in cases where a creditor makes an arrangement with a supplier of goods or services that he will provide credit to the supplier's customers to enable them to purchase such goods or services. Where, in such circumstances, a purchase of goods or services has been financed by a creditor under a regulated agreement then, if as a result of a misrepresentation or breach of contract by the supplier, the customer has a claim against the supplier, the creditor shall be jointly and severally liable with the supplier to the customer.

In a hire purchase transaction the finance house buys the goods from the supplier and lets them on hire purchase to the consumer. The finance house thus directly contracts with the consumer and is responsible to him for observing and performing all the terms of the agreement. If the goods are defective, the consumer's claim is against the finance house, not the dealer who supplied the goods.

This protection does not apply however to cases where services (which cannot be the subject of a hire purchase agreement) are sold on credit or where the finance house, rather than entering into a hire purchase agreement, lends money to the consumer (although it may be paid direct to the supplier) for the purchase of goods. The new provisions (in section 75 of the act) will fill this gap and follow from the recommendations of the Crowther Committee.

The provisions will apply where a creditor and a supplier enter into arrangements prior to a sale or expected sale of goods or services by the supplier to the effect that the creditor will supply credit for such sales. It does not apply where the cash price of the item does not exceed £30 or is more than £10,000.

Examples of where such protection will apply are:

1 A credit company makes arrangements with an installer of central heating that it will grant credit to the installer's customers to pay for central heating installations. In discussing a particular installation the question of payment comes up and the installer says that arrangements for credit can be made and gives the customer a form for a loan agreement with the credit company repayable by monthly instalments. The central heating is duly installed in the summer. However, when the customer turns it on the following autumn he finds that it does not work properly. The customer tries to get in touch with the installer to get it put right but finds that the installer has gone into liquidation. The customer is repaying the loan to the credit company and under present circumstances would have to go on making payments even though the central heating was useles and though he would probably have to pay someone else to put the central heating in working condition.

In a similar situation in respect of a regulated credit agreement entered into after 1 July, the customer could have a valid claim against the installer for breach of contract for not using reasonable skill in the installation and would then have a like claim against the credit company. Thus the customer would be able to initiate legal proceedings against the credit company.

2 A credit company has agreed with a supplier of deep freezers to grant loans to the supplier's customers. The supplier does a door-to-door selling campaign and the housewife signs a loan agreement with a credit company .The freezer is installed and initially appears to be working well. After a few days however the temperature is not falling to the correct level to keep the food properly. When the housewife tries to get in touch with the supplier who sold it she finds that he has moved from the address given and nobody knows where he now is. At present she will have to go on paying the monthly instalments to the credit company and would not be able to obtain compensation from the missing supplier for the defective freezer and for the deteriorating food stocks.

In a similar situation entered into after 1 July, as the housewife could have a claim for breach of contract against the supplier (the freezer not being reasonably fit for its purpose) she would be able in the absence of the supplier, to make a similar claim for breach of contract against the credit company.

Canvassing of cash loans

From 1 October 1977 it will be illegal to canvass or solicit debtor-creditor agreements (cash loans) in the home or from door-to-door (or, indeed, anywhere away from trade premises) except where the visit has been requested in writing or where, in respect of overdraft accounts, the Director General of Fair Trading has allowed such soliciting to take place.

Under section 49 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 the Director General of Fair Trading may make a determination that a current account kept with the creditor may be canvassed where:

1 the debtor already keeps an account with the creditor (whether a current account or not), and
2 the director general is of the opinion that it is not against the interest of debtors, and
3 the particular case complies with such conditions as the director general thinks fit.

Unsolicited credit cards

As from 1 July 1977 it will be illegal to give or send consumers credit-tokens (credit cards and similar objects entitling the consumer to credit) unless the customer has requested it (section 51 of the act).

Circulars to minors

The sending of documents to minors (ie someone under 18 years of age) inviting them to borrow money, obtain goods on credit or hire, obtain services on credit or to apply for information or advice on borrowing money or otherwise obtaining credit or hiring goods will be illegal from 1 July 1977 (section 50 of the act).

Progressive industrial strategy

'We are starting to work as a national team,' Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, told a London conference on Britain's economic future. 'I want to see our manufacturing industry expand again. I want to see it become profitable and take its place in the world on equal terms.'

The industrial strategy launched in November 1975 aimed to restore the international competitiveness of UK industry, Mr Varley continued. For the first time for many years there was a national industrial policy in Britain. The UK wished to compete with its European partners and other countries on equal terms. By 1980 Britain should be self-sufficient in oil, but there was no intention to use this wealth in national resources as an excuse for failing to improve the competitiveness of industry. Steadily and slowly, key manufacturing industries were being examined by tripartite teams of management, workforce and the government. This feature of co-operation between the three sides was new and exciting.

The first round of reports on 40 key industries brought up 350 recommendations for specific action, many of them to relieve immediate supply shortages. Now the tripartite working parties were looking at the strategies industries should aim at in the medium term. Investment in industry was being encouraged on a greater scale than ever before. In basic industries, massive investment programmes were going ahead. Steel, for example, had the greatest investment programme in Europe. Surveys indicated that the volume of investment by UK industry this year would be 15 per cent or more above the level of last year.

Seed corn for the future

The National Enterprise Board, created as part of the industrial strategy in 1975, was now the largest holding company in Europe, and was helping many small and enterprising companies. This was where the successes and new employment for the future would arise and the NEB was making a real contribution in planting seed corn for the future.

In support of the strategy the accelerated projects scheme brought forward new investment in industrial capacity totalling more than £600 million, at a cost to the government of only £80 million. The selective investment scheme had already made a successful start with offers of government assistance either made, or being considered, for projects costing nearly £500 million. In addition special schemes had been set up to encourage investment in 11 specific industries – ferrous foundries and machine tools for example – and these had been very successful.

One of the successes of the strategy had been in convincing the people involved that in the medium-term Britain would expand its industrial base and manufacturing employment only by greater acceptance of change throughout industry, in order to be able to compete more effectively in both home and export markets. The government was trying to help with this problem. The new manufacturing advisory service to give special technological advice to small and medium-sized firms was announced last week. However, it was ultimately on the actions of management and unions within individual companies that the strategy would stand or fall. A tremendous amount of hard, undramatic work was being done. The problem was recognised and there was a national will to find the answer.

Report discloses upturn in inventions

Reducing pollution from car exhausts, converting solar energy into domestic heating, and securing credit cards against forgery were some of the problems tackled by inventors in 1976. These latest trends of invention are discussed in the annual report of the Comptroller-General of Patents, Trade Marks and Designs, which was published last week*.

The report discloses that the general decline of activity in patents which had been noted in 1975 was arrested in 1976, with 2.2 per cent more applications, though 1.8 per cent fewer complete specifications filed. Trade mark applications decreased by 6.3 per cent, trade marks advertised went down by 7.3 per cent, but the number of trade marks registered increased by 6.6 per cent. Design applications also decreased by 2 per cent to a total of 4,623. During 1976, the back-log of patent specifications awaiting examination fell by about 4,000.

Discussing the trend of innovation during 1976, the report notes the continuing interest in particular fields. Most patented inventions aimed at reducing atmospheric pollution have concentrated on semi-conductor gas detectors, and on methods of converting noxious gases like car exhaust fumes into less harmful products. The world energy shortage has resulted in many inventions concerned with methods of assembly and installation of off-shore platforms for North Sea oil recovery, and also with the development of systems for solar and geothermal heating.

Many inventors have attempted to produce credit cards and identity cards which are secure against forgery. Some of the solutions proposed have involved the use of holograms. In the electronics area quadraphonic sound systems continued to be a subject of special activity. There was a marked increase in the number of inventions concerning video disc technology, and also charge storage memory devices using metal nitride oxide semiconductors and floating gate structure.

The report records the work during 1976 on new patents legislation, intended to implement the recommendations of the Banks committee and to enable the UK to ratify the European patent convention and other international patent treaties, led to the introduction in parliament of a patents bill during December.

In the international sphere, there were several important developments. Preparations continued for the opening of the European Patent Office, and notes that several of the top jobs have already been filled. It is expected, the report says, that the office will receive applications next spring. Negotiations were progressing during 1976 on proposals for amending the Paris convention for the protection of industrial property towards adapting it to the needs of the developing countries. The convention facilitates patenting of inventions and protection of trade marks and designs in the 87 member countries. During the year work continued on a new treaty under which states requiring the deposit of a micro-organism in certain fields of invention, would also recognise a single deposit in one of a number of nominated countries.

Regarded as an important development, the report says, was the launch of an EEC commission working party on a community trade mark. This would be effective throughout the nine countries on the basis of single registration. The report notes that an EEC trade mark office would be needed, and that the UK government has suggested its location in London.

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*Copies of the Comptroller-General's report, HC 318, are available from HMSO, and also from the sales counter of the Patent Office, price £1.00 net.

Northern Gas Consumers' Council

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has reappointed Mr J. Hudson as chairman of the Northern Gas Consumers' Council until 11 May 1980.

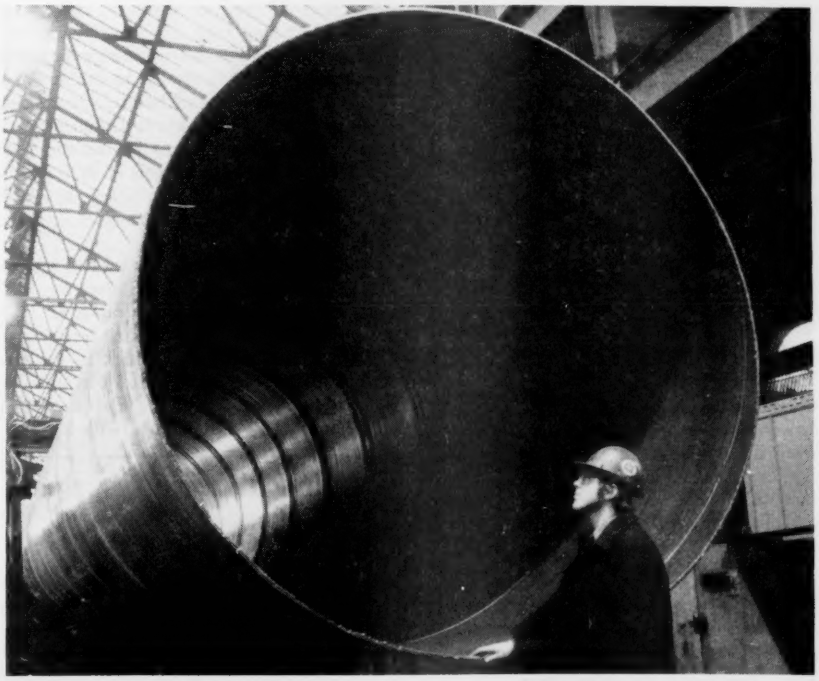
Fife petrochemical developments

Public local inquiries into the three planning applications for proposed petrochemical developments in Fife will open at Dunfermline on Monday, 13 June. Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland has called in the applications for his own decision.

The planning applications are by Shell Expro for the construction of a natural gas fractionation plant at Mossmorran with associated jetty at Braefoot Bay; by Esso Chemical Ltd for the construction of an ethane cracker on an adjoining site at Mossmorran, with a further jetty at Braefoot Bay; and, also by Esso Chemical Ltd, for proposed industrial development on the substantial portion of the Mossmorran site not covered by the two other proposals. The inquiry will be conducted by Mr A. G. Bell, deputy chief reporter, Scottish Office.

Scottish steel pipe – Europe's largest

This massive 3m diameter pipe, the largest spirally-welded steel pipe made in Europe, will carry 10 million gallons of water an hour when it is installed in the Kielder Water Scheme in Northumberland, north-east England. It will have a concrete lining and will be buried under a metre of concrete when the project is completed. More than 2km of the outsize pipe are being supplied for the scheme.



North Atlantic air services

'I am determined to remove the wasteful overprovision of capacity which has been such a lamentable feature of air services across the north Atlantic during recent years,' said Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, at the London consumer conference of the Airline Users Committee on air travel in Europe. He welcomed American moves, supported by President Carter himself, to avoid the waste of fuel and other resources.

Commenting on the latest stage of the UK-US negotiations for a new air service agreement, Mr Dell hoped the next round of negotiations which began this week in London would be the last, and emphasised that a reduction in the number of empty seats flown across the Atlantic would also benefit the customer. He summed up Britain's purpose in the negotiations as to obtain a fair agreement which would enable British Airways, and of course British Caledonian on the routes allotted to them, to compete on level terms with their American competitors.

The conditions established by the 1946 Bermuda agreement had turned out to be weighted heavily against the UK, and we now needed to right the balance. This would improve the competitive position of British airlines, and enable them to make an increased contribution to the UK balance of payments. He hoped the new agreement would set the scene for the development of air services during the next quarter of a century.

Concorde

Concorde was clearly meeting a real demand from the traveller. On the Washington service, now nearing its first full year's operation, British Airways were regularly carrying exceptionally high passenger loads, over 90 per cent of the available seats, across the Atlantic. On 13 May a fourth weekly service was introduced to help keep pace with the demand. The next priority was to get Concorde services started to New York. He was 'delighted' by Judge Pollack's ruling. Once Concorde was able to use New York, he believed the people who lived near the airport would discover it was not the monster they had been led to believe. It would soon settle down there as only one of many aircraft using the airport.

Laker Skytrain

The Americans are being pressed to issue a permit to Laker Airways to operate their Skytrain service. It is hoped to see some progress on the introduction of this imaginative new concept in the very near future, so that this experiment could be put to the test of experience.

Overbooking by airlines

It would be regarded as a valuable step forward if uniform arrangements on compensation could be achieved among the European carriers. There was already a voluntary scheme for flights from the UK, operated by over 30 British and foreign carriers, but more remained to be done.

Review of airports policy

The government's new airport strategy would recognise the benefits of air travel for tourism, trade and commerce, and to the whole country. It would also take into account the interests of those who unwillingly 'consumed' noise and congestion around UK airports. Passenger convenience had been a major factor in the government's stated policy to achieve some transfer of traffic from Heathrow to Gatwick.

Clearance of merger proposals

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided, on the information at present before him, not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monoplies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973: BTR Ltd/Andre Silentbloc Ltd, Imetal/25 per cent of Lead Industries Group Ltd, Phoenix Assurance Co Ltd/Shenley Investments Ltd, and Friends' Provident Life Office/The Land and House Property Corporation Ltd.

Investigation of Orbit Holdings Ltd

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, has appointed Anthony Howell Meurig Evans, of 4 Essex Court, Temple, London EC4 and Richard Hugh Morcom, of Lee House, London Wall, London EC2, under section 165(b) of the Companies Act 1948, as amended, as inspectors to investigate and report on the affairs of Orbit Holdings Ltd.

Scarcity of construction contracts

Forecasts for construction industry output in the period 1977-79, prepared by the National Council of Building Material Producers, were reviewed in mid-April. Total output is expected to be down by 4½ per cent in 1977 compared with the low levels of 1976 with a further fall of 1 per cent in 1978 on the 1977 level. A general, if small, upturn is expected in 1979.

At 1970 constant prices, the total new work output of the construction industry for 1977 is expected to be 7.5 per cent down on 1976 at approximately £3,210 million dropping to £3,135 million with a reduction of 2.5 per cent in 1978. The overall total for all work forecast for 1977 is £4,745 million with a further fall in 1978 to £4,690 million.

Gas and electricity prices

The government has replied to the report of the Select Committee on Nationalised Industries (SCNI) on 'Gas and Electricity Prices' and to the National Consumer Council's (NCC) report, 'Paying for Fuel'. The reply to the select committee report was published last week as a white paper, Cmnd 6806. Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, wrote to the chairman of the National Consumer Council in reply to the recommendations contained in their report.

Action has been taken in keeping with some recommendations and further studies are proceeding on others. Two important steps were taken in order to provide assistance to domestic consumers in time for last winter. First, the industries agreed a code of practice on the payment of gas and electricity bills with the government and put it into effect. This provides for protection of genuine hardship cases against disconnection; encourages the spread and adoption of pay-as-you-go payment methods and defines the circumstances in which a security deposit is required. Secondly, the government is providing help to recipients of supplementary benefit and family income supplement through a 25 per cent discount allowable on one of last winter's electricity bills.

Prime area for investment

'Whatever the worries and anxieties may have been in the past the oil companies and commercial interests generally are in absolutely no doubt now that the North Sea is a prime area for offshore investment. They feel that they now have a fair and stable financial regime to work to here and, in the British National Oil Corporation, a commercially credible and enterprising partner,' Dr J. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State for Energy, told a conference organised by Leo Kramer International Ltd, last week.

Commenting on US business attitudes towards the North Sea, Dr Mabon said that in talking to the US banks, he found no disquiet at all. On the contrary, the attitude was, 'give us some more investment opportunities in the North Sea and we will put our money where our mouths are'. What they are looking for are new oil field development decisions on some of the dozens of discoveries made in the past couple of years or so.

When these decisions do come, UK industry would be in a good position to cope with the orders. The showing of British companies at the vast Houston offshore exhibition was excellent. British companies are no longer learners in the world offshore business, they have firmly established themselves, in the eyes of the industry, as technological leaders.

Turning to the use of North Sea oil revenues, which would be worth about 3 per cent of GDP in 1980, Dr Mabon commented on the three items so far pencilled in on Britain's shopping list. The first is repayment of some overseas debt. The UK has borrowed more heavily in the past few years than it perhaps would have been able to without the prospect of the oil and there are some heavy repayment obligations around the end of this decade and in the early 1980s. That does not mean massively running down overseas UK liabilities as has occasionally been suggested but simply bringing our debt and credit position into a better balance.

The second item is industrial strategy and the task of building up new manufacturing capability for the 1980s and 1990s. Britain's manpower resources and wage levels, together with its access to the European market, must make the UK one of the most attractive investment opportunities among its near neighbours. One new industry built up on North Sea oil is offshore supplies and it has been actively developing its export potential.

The third item is the energy sector itself. The costs of investment in conservation and in developing new energy supplies to supplement and replace the North Sea will be very large. Existing energy supply investment will amount to around 1½ per cent of GNP in 1980 and the cost simply on the supply side could be over 2 per cent of GNP by the end of the century.

Montrose field licensed

Agreement with Amoco, Texas Eastern and Amerada Hess, on state participation in their licence interests in the Montrose field has been reached by the government and the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC).

The arrangements with Amoco are very similar to those already agreed in principle with other major oil companies with significant refining and marketing interests in the UK. The arrangements with Texas Eastern and Amerada Hess which relate solely to their interests in the Montrose field are almost identical to the memoranda signed with them on the 25 January, 1977 covering the Beryl field. As a result of the memoranda signed last week, the state will have access to 51 per cent of petroleum production from Montrose after taking into account the British Gas Corporation's existing licence interest in that field.

BNOC's rights to take petroleum, at market price, will apply to up to 29 per cent of the production attributable to the interests of Amoco, Texas Eastern and Amerada Hess, and in the case of Amoco will be subject to certain rights of repurchase. BNOC will become a joint holder of licences PO19 and PO20, and will have the right to information and an effective voice in field operations, with specific voting rights under the Montrose operating agreement.

The Montrose field lies mainly in block 22/17 although there is an extension into block 22/18. Licensees' shares in both blocks are Amoco UK Petroleum Ltd 30.77 per cent, British Gas Corporation 30.77 per cent, Amerada Hess 23.08 per cent and Texas Eastern 15.38 per cent. Recoverable reserves in the field are estimated to be 20 million tonnes and peak production, at 2.4 million tonnes a year, is due to be reached in 1978.

Cost of imported coal

In the Commons on 3 May, Kenneth Clarke, MP, raised the question of the average price per ton of coal imported in 1976; and how this compared with the average price per ton of coal mined in the United Kingdom.

Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy, gave average prices derived from the 'Overseas Trade Statistics of the UK', in 1976 in £/ton cif as follows: Netherlands 24.91; Federal Republic of Germany 44.64; Irish Republic 18.63; Poland 30.20; North Vietnam 30.69; Australia 22.84; USA 39.66; other countries 33.00; average, all imports 29.60.

The average unit revenue to the National Coal Board from sales of deep mined coal in 1976 was £17.95 per ton. Comparisons between prices may be affected by differences between coal qualities imported from different countries and between the terms of particular contracts.

Why production managers leave

To identify reasons why production management is losing highly-trained personnel and to seek possible remedies, the Business Graduates Association is holding a one-day conference on 23 June at the Cafe Royal. Held in association with the British Institute of Management, the conference is being chaired by Michael Edwardes, chairman of Chloride, and some of the main speakers will be Jack Bone, formerly production manager of ICI, Alastair Nicholson, professor of production management at London Business School, and Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail. Details and application forms are available from BGA, 87 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6JD, tel. 01-930 9368/9369.

Bacon distribution to be investigated

Prices, costs and margins in the importation and distribution of bacon are to be studied by the Price Commission. Announcing this in reply to a Parliamentary question, Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said that he was concerned that consumers should benefit from the fall in wholesale bacon prices. Although the decision to make the reference does not imply that profit margins are excessive, the Price Commission will investigate all stages of bacon distribution in order to check that the situation is not being exploited.

Better potatoes

The Director General of Fair Trading announced last week that he has obtained written assurances under part III of the Fair Trading Act 1973 from PVD Ltd, of Addington Street, Manchester, and from its director George Elliott.

The company supplied fruit and vegetables for consumption by children having school meals in Cheshire. The director general asked for the assurances because, since January 1973, the company has been convicted of 23 offences under the Food and Drugs Act 1955 concerning the sale of potatoes some of which were mechanically damaged, had dry rot, gangrene, hollow hearts, slug damage or green patches, when the contract called for first quality potatoes. Five other convictions related to decomposing tomatoes and bananas, and spring cabbage running to seed.

Mr Elliott and the company have given the director general assurances that they will refrain from the above course of conduct. Mr Elliott has also undertaken not to carry on any similar course of conduct in any other business activities he may be involved in now or in the future.

Greater Manchester Consumer Protection Department has advised the company on an improved system of quality control.

Advisory Committee on Pilotage

Edmund Dell, the Secretary of State for Trade, has appointed Geoffrey Bedford as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pilotage in the place of the late David Robinson. Mr Bedford is managing director of Cayzer, Irvine and Co Ltd.

Patents endorsed 'licences of right'

Under section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'licences of right' on the dates specified.

5 May 1977

1073441 Precision Processes (Textiles) Ltd
Production of shrink-resistant wool
1084716 Precision Processes (Textiles) Ltd
Production of shrink-resistant wool
1098582 Precision Processes (Textiles) Ltd
Production of shrink-resistant wool
1130963 William Irvine
Holder for a golf ball
1201527 Ernst Leitz Wetzlar Gesellschaft Mit Beschrankter Hafung
Micro-hardness tester for attachment to microscope
1345472 La Mecano-Soudure-Remoise
Device for connecting to an agricultural tractor fitted with a three-point hitch, a semi-trailer or agricultural implement
1430067 The British United Shoe Machinery Co Ltd
Improvements in or relating to apparatus for the preparation of shoe uppers for a lasting operation

10 May 1977

1453057 Agfa-Gevaert
Polymeric colour forming and competing couplers
1456210 Agfa-Gevaert
Improved method and apparatus for the development of electrostatic charge images
1456243 Agfa-Gevaert
Improved direct-positive silver halide elements
1456381 Agfa-Gevaert
Improved method and apparatus for the development of electrostatic charge patterns
1457652 Agfa-Gevaert
Package for radiographic films
1326421 Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft
Improvements in and relating to film cartridges
1326422 Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft
Improvements in and relating to film cartridges
1303817 Albert Rolland SA
Therapeutic extracts of anacardiaceae bark
1414016 Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd
Radiating cable system

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on patents form no. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage, Comptroller

Price Commission interventions in April

During April the Price Commission rejected 11 notifications of price increases from manufacturing and service companies in categories I and II. In another seven cases the companies concerned withdrew their notification of intended increases and in 52 cases the extent of the increases was reduced by the commission. See below.

During April, following discussions with the Price Commission, two distributors in category II agreed to make price reductions amounting to £30,000 in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits as revealed in their periodic returns.

Following inspection of records kept by enterprises in category III, the commission's regional offices secured the agreement of 105 distributors, ten manufacturers, two service enterprises, three professional enterprises and five construction enterprises to make price reductions amounting to £6.14 million in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits. In addition, the regional offices secured a total of 122 individual voluntary price reductions following investigation or complaints about prices increases.

The Price Commission may intervene to reject or modify notifications submitted by category I and II enterprises at any time during or after the 28-day period which must elapse before the increase can be implemented.

Announcements about price increases where the Price Commission has not intervened are the responsibility of the company imposing the increase. The inclusion of an item in the lists of rejections or withdrawals does not preclude subsequent re-submission.

In some cases a company may submit a single price increase notification involving a range of products. If some items within the range are subject to intervention, the whole notification, for statistical purposes, is treated as a modification.

Rejections

Company/product	% increase sought
CATEGORY I	
Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Ltd OPC/RH cement	10.34
Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Ltd OPC/RH cement	5.59
Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Ltd Special cement	4.16
Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Ltd Special cement	9.87
Clarke Chapman Ltd Service contracts and repair charges (industrial boiler plant)	9.80
CATEGORY II	
Aberthaw and Bristol Channel Portland Cement Ltd OPC/RH cement	8.07
Commonwealth Holiday Inns of Canada (UK) Ltd Room rates	11.00
Cyanamid of Great Britain Ltd Surgical sutures	7.60
Hay's Transport Services Ltd Steel and clay contract haulage rates	8.30 to 18.70
Ketton Portland Cement Co Ltd OPC/RH cement	8.07
Helena Rubinstein Ltd All products	10.25

Withdrawals

Company/product	% increase sought
CATEGORY I	
J. Bibby Agriculture Ltd Animal feedingstuffs	2.63
Coca-Cola Bottlers (Scotland and Northern Ltd) Carbonates and postmix syrups	6.08
IMI Scott Ltd Resistance wires	9.66
Metlex Industries Ltd 'Magnum' bathroom fittings	35.00
Watney Mann and Truman Holdings Ltd Beer	0.69
CATEGORY II	
Bibby and Baron Ltd Paper bags	8.50
Normalair-Garrett Ltd Aircraft equipment	7.14

Modifications

Company/product	% increase sought	% increase after modification
Bournemouth Laundry Co Ltd Domestic laundering and dry cleaning	16.02	12.61
Carrington Viyella Ltd Yarns	11.00	10.80
Conoco Ltd Refined petroleum products	30.72	16.08
Crompton Parkinson Ltd Induction motors	3.44	3.31
Dudley Hill Engineering Co Ltd Automatic towel cabinets	8.17	7.74
Esso Chemicals Ltd Paramins	22.90	22.28
Financial Times Ltd 'Financial Times' advertising rates and UK subscription rate	10.26	10.23
Londex Ltd Electrical and electronic controls	6.07	5.88
National Freight Corporation Freight charges	8.60	8.47
Pilkington Bros Ltd Flat glass	6.41	6.40
Rowntree Mackintosh Ltd Biscuits, pickles, nuts, spreads, cocoa powder and dry mix products	5.13	5.09
Rubery Owen-Rockwell Ltd Trailer axles, suspensions, spare parts and other related equipment	5.48	3.59
Spillers-French Baking Ltd Bread	7.96	7.46
Spillers-French Baking Ltd Rolls, buns and short life flour confectionery (including savouries)	6.80	5.27
Spillers-French Milling Ltd Bakers' flour	3.34	1.07
Spillers- French Milling Ltd Biscuits flour and other soft flours	5.87	4.83
Spillers-French Milling Ltd Own label pre-packed flour	12.41	11.61
Stewart and Son of Dundee Ltd Cased whisky	22.57	20.81
James Stott and Co (Engineers) Ltd Heavy duty industrial catering equipment	5.86	3.84
Tate and Lyle Transport Ltd Road haulage	8.37	4.02
Tate and Lyle Transport Ltd Road transport	8.29	8.28
Van den Berghs and Jurgens Ltd – Craigmillar Division Margarines and compounds	11.78	11.55
Venesta International Packaging Ltd Collapsible metal tubes, rigid metal tubes (cans), metal engineering components, plastic tubes and plastic mouldings	3.75	3.55
Yorkshire Imperial Metals Ltd Non-ferrous tubes, tube plates, fittings and valves	5.22	5.17
Edgar Allen Foundry Ltd Steel castings	10.90	9.88
Clay Cross (Iron Foundries) Ltd Span ductile pipes and fittings	4.78	4.16
Dukes and Markus Ltd Ladies' outerwear	17.78	16.57
Ellis and Goldstein Ltd 'Eastex' coats and suits	10.42	8.19
Engelhard Industries Ltd Conversion charges for precious metals and precious metal products	11.00	10.30
Grimsby Cold Storage Co Ltd Cold storage warehousing	20.53	16.39
James Haigh Ltd Dyeing and finishing	17.52	13.30
Hargreaves Transport Ltd Haulage rates	9.78	8.20
K Shoes Ltd Shoes and repair charges	15.46	11.39
LR Industries Ltd Range of contraceptive sheaths	10.14	9.55
LR Industries Ltd Rubber and brass-based electrical plugs and accessories	13.58	12.71
Ley's Malleable Castings Co Ltd Castings	1.15	0.57
Richard Lloyd Ltd Milling cutters' blades	6.49	4.63
Richard Lloyd Ltd Taps	8.64	6.37
Morris and Co (Kidderminster) Ltd Woven carpets	10.00	7.33
Oldham and Son Ltd Automotive batteries	13.51	13.30
Josiah Parkes and Sons Ltd Locks and builders' hardware	6.83	6.44
George Payne and Co Ltd Chocolate and sugar confectionery	17.68	17.57
Pegler-Hattersley Ltd Bronze industrial valves	7.94	7.75
Polarcold Ltd Sub-contract sheet metal pressings and light engineering assemblies	6.02	5.76
RCM Equipment Ltd Grilles, diffusers and related products	30.00	20.53
Rose Forgrove Ltd Packaging machines, spares and service charges	7.75	5.57
Salpa-Kay Ltd Resin rubber sheets	5.29	5.26
Sanitas Trust Ltd Medical sundries 'Gumption' range	16.16 9.22	11.40 9.22
A. S. Toone and Sons Ltd Wood veneered and plastic fabricated panels	10.40	9.61
Uniroyal Ltd Crumb rubbers	18.68	18.42
Universal Grinding Wheel Co Ltd Abrasive wheels	7.60	7.10
West Suffolk Newspapers Ltd Advertising rates of 'Haverhill Echo'	0.49	0.32
Zest Equipment Co Ltd Heating and ventilating accessories and solenoid valves	10.00	8.40

Regional development grant payments in Scotland

The list published in *Trade and Industry* (13 May 1977, page 261) of companies which have received one or more payments of regional development grant of over £25,000 in the quarter ended 31 March 1977 did not include companies in Scotland. A list of these companies is as follows. Notes to cover both lists are also shown.

Name of company and location	Grant (£'000)
SCOTLAND	
ACNA (UK) Ltd, Stevenston	1,248
Ailsa Shipbuilding Co Ltd, Troon	41
Air Products Ltd, Cumbernauld	139
Air Products Ltd, Glasgow	137
Anderson Mavor Ltd, Glasgow	25
Babcock and Wilcox (Plant and Leasing) Ltd, Renfrew	27
Babcock and Wilcox (Operations) Ltd, Renfrew	215
Barclays Export and Finance Ltd, Airdrie	163
Beecham Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd, Irvine	502
BEPI (Electronics) Ltd, Galashiels	46
BP Oil Grangemouth Refinery Ltd, Grangemouth	2,104
BP Trading Ltd, Grangemouth	1,186
British Aluminium Co Ltd, Invergordon	52
British Steel Corporation, Airdrie	883
British Steel Corporation, Bellshill	58
British Steel Corporation, Cambuslang	27
British Steel Corporation, Motherwell	2,676
British Steel Corporation, Ravenscraig	35
Brown and Root Wimpey Highland Fabricator Ltd, Tain	43
Burroughs Machines Ltd, Cumbernauld	56
Cameron Iron Works Ltd, Livingstone	34
Capeboards and Panels Ltd, Glasgow	29
Cape Industries Ltd, Stirling	30
Carolina Leasing Ltd, Douglas	28
Caterpillar Tractor Co Ltd, Uddington	284
Chivas Brothers Ltd, Paisley	88
Clough Mill Ltd, Innerleithen	30
Costain Mining Ltd, Kinglassie	95
CPC (UK) Ltd, Paisley	126
Cummins Engine Co Ltd, Shotts	29
Curral Lewis and Martin Ltd, Torryburn	89
Darngavil Brickworks Ltd, Airdrie	39
D. B. Marshall (Newbridge) Ltd, Coatbridge	50
Devro Ltd, Bellshill	89
Devro Ltd, Glasgow	533
Digital Equipment Scotland Ltd, Mosshill	37
DISS Plant and Trading Co Ltd, 'S'	30
Douglas Reyburn and Co Ltd, Kilmarnock	42
Ellonton Suppliers Ltd, Stewarton	45
Forward Leasing (UK) Ltd, Paisley	92
General Electric Co Ltd, Glenrothes	49
George Wimpey and Co Ltd, 'S'	31
Giddings and Lewis-Fraser Ltd, Arbroath	41
Glaxo Laboratories Ltd, Montrose	72
Govan Shipbuilders Ltd, Glasgow	685
Halliburton Manufacturing and Services Ltd, Arbroath	64
Hillhouse Estates Ltd, Troon	64
Holmes McDougall Ltd, Edinburgh	26
Howard Doris Ltd, Kishorn	57
IBM (UK) Ltd, Greenock	738
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd, Dumfries	113
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd, Grangemouth	341
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd, Stevenston	523
Imperial Group Ltd, Glasgow	65
Incase (UK) Ltd, Harthill	26
International Computers Ltd, Dalkeith	44
International Molasses Ltd, Grangemouth	68
Inveresk Paper Co Ltd, Denny	49
Ireland Alloys Ltd, Blantyre	32
James Millar and Partners Ltd, Edinburgh	31
John G. Kincaid and Co Ltd, Greenock	71
John Horn Ltd, Glasgow	39
John Walker and Sons Ltd, Glasgow	335
Kennerty Farm Dairies Ltd, Aberdeen	31
Kenneth Stewart (Strathpeffer) Ltd, Strathpeffer	28
Kings and Co Ltd, Beith	74
Kings and Co Ltd, Johnstone	51
Laidlaw and Fairgieve Ltd, Dalkeith	30
Lewis Offshore Ltd, Isle of Lewis	105
Lewis Offshore Ltd, Stornoway	105
Lombard North Central Leasing Ltd, 'S'	27
Marconi Co Ltd, By Dunfermline	86
Marconi Co Ltd, Fife	32
Massey-Ferguson-Perkins Ltd, Kilmarnock	115
McDermott Scotland, Ardersier	241
Metal Box Ltd, Glasgow	390
Michelin Tyre Co Ltd, Aberdeen	32
Midland Montagu Leasing Ltd, Glasgow	32
Midland Montagu Leasing Ltd, Livingstone	33
Midland Montagu Leasing Ltd, Port Glasgow	38
MK-Shand, Invergordon	65
Murphy Brothers Ltd, 'S'	89
National Chrome Tanning Co (1936) Ltd, Bridge of Weir	26
National Coal Board, Edinburgh	167
National Coal Board, Fife	113
National Coal Board, Glasgow	26
National Coal Board, Kirkcaldy	223
National Coal Board, Newtongrange	540
National Coal Board, Ochiltree	70
National Coal Board, Whitburn	98
National Semi-Conductor (UK) Ltd, Greenock	66
Nobels Explosives Co Ltd, Stevenston	26
North British Distillery Co Ltd, Edinburgh	41
North British Steel Foundry, Bathgate	29
Organon Laboratories Ltd, Newhouse	33
Polaroid (UK) Ltd, Dumbarton	176
Redpath Dorman Long (North Sea) Ltd, Methil	61
Redpath Dorman Long Ltd, Methil	180
Reed Corrugated Cases Ltd, Edinburgh	34
R. J. McCleod (Contractors) Ltd, Glasgow	40
Roche Products Ltd, Dalry	83
Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd, Glasgow	187
Scotboard Ltd, Irvine	357
Scottish Agricultural Industries Ltd, Edinburgh	33
Scottish Malt Distillers Ltd, Montrose	34
Scottish Stamping and Engineering Co Ltd, Ayr	209
Shirland Fireclay Ltd, Dunfermline	95
Singer Co (UK) Ltd, Clydebank	144
Somerville Nails Ltd, Lennoxtown	47
Sunbeam Electric Ltd, East Kilbride	33
Sunblest Bakeries (Dundee) Ltd, Dundee	74
Sunblest Bakeries (Edinburgh) Ltd, Edinburgh	26
Syntex Ltd (Pharmaceuticals), Edinburgh	86
Tarmac Construction Ltd, 'S'	40
Tokheim Ltd, Glenrothes	42
Tozer Standard and Chartered Ltd, Lesmahagow	62
Tractor Shovels (Contracts) Ltd, Dunfermline	151
Tri-State Oil Tool (UK) Ltd, Aberdeen	31
T. Tunnock Ltd, Uddingston	25
Tullis Russell and Co Ltd, Fife	111
Tullis Russell and Co Ltd, Glenrothes	96
UG Glass Containers Ltd, Alloa	40
Uniroyal Ltd, Newbridge	28
Veeder Root Ltd, Dundee	30
Wiggins Teape Ltd, Aberdeen	78
Wiggins Teape Ltd, Fort William	92
William Tawse Ltd, Aberdeen	103
William Thyne Ltd, Edinburgh	37
Wm Collins Sons and Co Ltd, Bishopsbriggs	29

Notes:

1 'S' indicates use in more than one premises on sites in a development area.

2 Total of payments listed above (together with those published on 13 May) £80.2 million.

3 Total regional development grant paid in the quarter £114.3 million.

Government sales

Ministry of Defence

Sales by auction

25 May 1977

Location

RAF Little Rissington (Imjin Barracks), Cheltenham, Glos.

Auctioneers

Hobbs and Chambers (Dept L), Market Place, Cirencester, Glos GL7 1QQ (tel. 0285 4736)

28 May 1977

Location

RAF Upwood, Ramsey, Cambs

Auctioneers

Midland Marts Ltd (Dept L), PO Box 10, Banbury Stockyard, Banbury, Oxon OX16 8EP (tel. 0295 50501)

28 May 1977

Location

RAF Driffield (Leaconfield), Beverley, Yorks

Auctioneers

Bartle and Son (Dept L), 52 Merrion Street, Leeds LS2 (tel. 0532 450898)

The above three sales each comprise household furniture and effects which will be sold as single items or in small quantities for the benefit of personal buyers.

31 May 1977—Miscellaneous stores

Location

Ordnance Storage and Disposal Depot RAOC, Ruddington, Notts

Auctioneers

Arnold and Son, 'Modwena House' (Dept L), 13 Market Place, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffs DE14 1HD (tel. 0283 64657)

The stores which are lying at various depots include Whirlwind helicopter spares, aircraft and engine spares, MT spares and tyres, machine and hand tools, electrical and electronic equipments, household and office furniture, watches, binoculars, cameras and many other items.

Catalogues which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc, are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 20p, postage and packing 10p extra (postal orders only).

Reprints of 'T & I' articles

Reprints of *Trade and Industry* articles should be ordered within one week of publication from: Director of Publications (PI), HMSO, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1BN. Reprints cost £20 for 250 copies of a page or part-page, plus £1.00 for each additional 125 copies; carriage extra.

Technology: key to competitiveness

Improved industrial performance in every field from cake manufacture to steel castings may be achieved by the use of existing and well tried technology. Transtec 77, a conference organised by the Committee of Directors of Research Associations, was held last week to explore the field of technology transfer. The following extracts from introductory speeches given by Sir Ronald McIntosh and Anthony Rawlinson set technology transfer in the context of Britain's industrial strategy.

New effort needed

Sir Ronald McIntosh, director general of the National Economic Development Office, discusses the shortfall in industry's use of known technology and ways in which this may be overcome.

In the aftermath of the economic summit it would be wrong to deny that Britain, in common with much of the Western world, faces deep and intractable problems. Unemployment, on which the world's leaders rightly focussed so much attention over the weekend, is going to be hard to bring down from its present high levels. Its increasing impact on young people will give rise to social tensions in Western Europe and provide a difficult background for the efforts we must make in Britain to raise productivity.

The continuing gap between our rate of inflation and our competitors' poses special problems for us. Recent events have underlined the difficulties we shall face this winter in reconciling the need to contain labour costs with the equally pressing need to increase incentives. Unsettled political conditions in Italy, France and Britain put strains on the European community's cohesion and give rise to grave uncertainties which seriously complicate long-term planning by industry.

Yet there is one aspect of our affairs from which we in this country can take comfort. I am not referring to North Sea oil – welcome though that exciting but finite new resource is. What I have in mind is the new national awareness of the central role which manufacturing industry plays in our economy.

The change in attitude has been gradual and many things have contributed to it. But I think one may fairly claim that it owes its principal origin to an all-day meeting of NEDC which was held at Chequers in November 1975. Despite its imperfections and some disappointing later setbacks, that meeting started a process which is of great potential benefit to this country. It gave explicit and authoritative support to a simple proposition; that if Britain is to remain an advanced industrial country, with reasonably full employment and an acceptable standard of living, the needs of manufacturing industry will have to be given a much higher priority than they have hitherto received.

Some of you may think that this proposition is self-evident. It was not widely accepted a couple of years ago. The fact that it is so accepted now is in large measure due to the activities which stemmed from that NEDC meeting. A central feature of the work initiated at Chequers was the setting up of special groups to get to grips with the problems of individual sectors of industry. As is well known we now have 40 of these, rather more than half of which are concerned with the engineering industries.

In accordance with established Neddy tradition they are all tripartite in composition. Their members are practising managers from the industry concerned, civil servants from the Department of Industry and, in the case of the trade unions, shop stewards who work in the industry as well as full-time officials. The groups' chairmen are sometimes drawn from the trade union movement but more often from management. They are men of experience and achievement and their collective enthusiasm for and commitment to the work is a most refreshing feature of the exercise.

Almost without exception the general attitude in the sector groups is constructive and positive. After a slow start they are all now well into their stride. Knowledge of their activities is spreading throughout the sectors concerned and provided they are able to continue their work in a reasonably stable policy environment they will in my view make a substantial and growing contribution to our industrial revival.

The sector groups' work is heavily market-oriented – much more so than would have been the case with a similar exercise undertaken five or 10 years ago, when the main emphasis would probably have been on production problems. In their search for ways of increasing market share the groups have repeatedly drawn attention to the importance of non-price factors – design, reliability, marketing and the like.

The problems of technology transfer are close to the core of Britain's industrial problems. Study of the ways in which Britain could improve its industrial performance and market share, indicates the central importance of design, product development and the technological content of our exports. The reasons for the nations weakness in these respects is not altogether understood. No doubt it stems partly from our educational system. It may also reflect the bias in favour of official rather than commercial requirements which has characterised our scientific and technological effort since the war. But one more practical consideration stands out clearly – that is the great damage which the inflation of recent years has done to industry's research and development programmes. This has hit the engineering industries particularly hard. The largest companies may have maintained their programmes because they know they have to do so in order to stay with the competition. But many of the medium sized and small companies, which form the backbone of British engineering, have been forced by the pressures on their cash flow to cut back severely on both marketing and R and D.

The full extent of this cutback and its implications for Britain's future exports have not yet been fully appreciated. Up to date figures for expenditure on R and D are not available. But the latest published statistics show that in 1972-73 expenditure on R and D in the mechanical engineering industry, as a percentage of net output, had fallen by 50 per cent from the level in 1968-69. Employment on R and D in the industry was roughly halved in the same period. In no other sector of manufacturing industry were there such large reductions in expenditure or employment. And one must remember that these figures relate to a period before the great inflation of 1973-75 in which many engineering companies were forced to cut back severely, wherever they could, simply in order to survive.

It is clear from the sector groups' reports that the effects of this reduction in expenditure are now being reflected in our trade performance and that a major new effort on product development is required in many sectors of engineering. Direct exchequer support for product development is valuable but it cannot be expected to touch more than a fraction of the problem. There are other ways in which the Government could help. It is often said by industrialists in our sector groups and elsewhere that it is more difficult to find risk capital to support the R and D effort needed to develop new products in the United Kingdom than it is, for example, in the United States or Germany. If this is true it should be taken into account in formulating policies for price and dividend control. It may also be an area which the financial institutions could usefully look into. We should also recognise that given the long lead times involved in most forms of R and D, there is a case in some sectors for a sharp increase in our purchases of foreign know-how and in arrangements to manufacture in this country advanced products of proved performance which have been developed overseas.

In all the measures which may be taken in this field, the need to involve potential users in all aspects of product development should be born in mind. One of the most notable features of the sector groups' reports is the emphasis they put on the need to strengthen maker/user contacts. While as always there are shining exceptions, it does seem to be true to say that over much of the British engineering industry there is a lack of systematic collaboration between suppliers and users in matters of design and manufacturing technology.

The evidence suggests that where this collaboration does exist both parties benefit, sometimes substantially. As a result of work done for and within NEDC, the contribution which large public sector purchasers can make to their supplying firms' efficiency is now increasingly recognised. Six major nationalised industries buy 30 per cent of the plant and machinery bought in the United Kingdom and for some sectors, of which telecommunications equipment and coal mining machinery are examples, they are the only domestic customer. The influence of their design policies and pattern of ordering on the suppliers' ability to compete in world markets is thus overwhelming. The need for close collaboration between these organisations and their suppliers, especially in the field of product development, is now more widely accepted and arrangements to strengthen it are in hand in several cases.

It is well known that when there is a cyclical recovery in Britain, bottlenecks tend to arise and our imports of manufactures increase sharply. The sector groups' reports suggest that in any future upturn this rise in imports would take place earlier in the cycle and would apply to a much wider range of manufactured goods. What seems to be happening is this. The loss of competitiveness that has occurred in our export markets has applied equally to our domestic sales. The impact of prolonged inflation on company finances has hit particularly hard the medium and smaller engineering companies which supply machines and components to other parts of industry. These companies are often somewhat run of the mill affairs, with unexciting management and poor financial and production control, and their performance has deteriorated sharply under the pressures of the last few years. This has led many of their British customers to turn to foreign sources for the machines and components in question; and if these provide a satisfactory product with reliable delivery, there is no incentive to go back to the British supplier and see if he could do better. As a consequence the British suppliers' performance does not improve and the domestic capacity to make the relevant component or machine diminishes and in some cases disappears entirely.

This process has now gone so far that a special effort is needed to reverse it. The problem is well documented by our sector groups. I should like to see our large manufacturing companies, which have financial and managerials strengths that smaller companies often lack, accept a positive responsibility for developing British sources for components and machines they now import. This could sometimes lead them to invest in new production facilities themselves and there are instances where this is already happening. But the better course might often be for the large user to help independent suppliers to achieve better performance through improvements in product development, manufacturing technology and production control. Many industrialists with whom this has been discussed recognise it as being in their own company's interest and are already beginning to take steps in that direction. But to develop the concept to its full potential, with the benefits to employment and our balance of trade which this could bring, would require a more explicit and co-ordinated programme and this is what we in NEDO are hoping to initiate.

Transferring technology

Anthony Rawlinson, second permanent secretary, Department of Industry, presents proposals for stimulating the transfer of technology to industry, and the action being taken by government.

The aim of the industrial strategy, one of the twin pillars of economic policy, is ambitious but essential: to reverse the decline which has been evident for many years in the relative efficiency and competitiveness of British manufacturing industry taken as a whole. There are shining exceptions, but the general trend is alarming. All too frequently productivity in British manufacturing is far below that being achieved by many of our major competitors. The causes are many and deep seated. To reverse such a trend will be difficult, and take a long time. Yet there is good ground for confidence that it can be reversed. The best British companies are efficient and are competitive. The task is to raise average productivity towards what the best are already achieving.

Quite clearly technology is in the centre of this problem. That is not a novel thought, nor is government involvement. It was as long ago as 1917 that the government of the day, wishing to stimulate technology in industry, voted funds to assist the establishment of industrial research associations. Since then much has happened. To come to more recent times, during the period of the Ministry of Technology from which parts of my present department trace lineal descent, much was heard of the significance of technology in industrial policy. Some extravagant language was used which led to some subsequent reaction. But the basic idea was surely right. Good use of technology may not be a sole or sufficient condition for the regeneration of British industry; but it is surely a necessary condition.

One of the prime strands of industrial strategy is investment. Much is heard of the need for new investment, and need there certainly is. But more and more it is coming to be realised that just as necessary, perhaps even more necessary, is better exploitation, more efficient use, of existing investment. That is true of physical investment, in buildings, machinery and equipment. It is also true of human investment, and of investment in knowledge. And the last is the key.

Too often work on applying and disseminating existing knowledge is thought less important, less exciting, or even less scientific than work aimed at some new and potentially spectacular breakthrough. But it is the better use of existing knowledge which is primarily needed to make our economy more efficient. It is here that the returns are greatest for least cost and least effort, and, which is not unimportant, where the returns are quickest. In the reports of the sector working parties set up by the National Economic Development Council to forward the industrial strategy, the need to improve technological competitiveness comes up over and over again; and it is competitiveness in the use and application of existing knowledge which is primarily meant.

Obviously it is not that major innovation, in machines, in materials or in techniques, is not important. This must and will go ahead. And nationally we must continue to give attention to the gap, often so difficult to bridge, between invention and commercial exploitation. The Department of Industry sponsors a body to help here, the National Research Development Corporation, which, to the great credit of its board and management, is now profitable and generating its own cash for reinvestment. But, as a broad generalisation, after a century and a half fruitful in invention, the 'entrance fee' needed to turn new ideas into profitable commercial business is in many fields becoming very high. The big breakthrough seems likely to be less frequent in future, and to demand great and difficult selection. Striving for it can all too easily be a burden rather than a help.

We need to shift the balance towards spreading existing well proven knowledge more widely through industry, and getting it acted on and exploited. Some of our most successful and innovative companies point the way. They spend money on new research, but typically they reckon to spend as much or more on improvement work in their own laboratories, to which should be added the effort and money spent by their numerous licensees on adaptation and improvement. In such companies one may guess that the amount of money spent on diffusing and improving the best inventions is as much as 10 times the amount spent on the initial commercialisation.

Nor need this well-proven knowledge be confined within company boundaries. The patent system makes it possible to earn rewards for transferring technology. Improvement patents can multiply the value and lifetime of industrial property and technology, including working methods, training and education, and related good practices arising from experience. Nationally, we need to find ways to multiply and spread this good practice. It is not unknown for improvement work based on existing knowledge to raise the real value of output from a plant by a factor of four or five, and profit similarly.

Here are four propositions for stimulating progress, which indicate areas for thought and action. In each area the Department of Industry has certain activities or adopted policies which are helpful. These are areas where there may be scope for advance by industry itself.

My first proposition is a commonplace, but still often neglected in practice. As a nation we must direct more of our scientific effort towards the immediate needs of industry, that is, to the dissemination of existing knowledge and its application to immediate industrial problems. For the past four years the Department of Industry has been seeking to do this in relation to the research programmes funded by the department by adopting the so-called customer/contractor principle. Eight requirements boards define the objectives and determine the balance and content of the department's research programmes. In the period ahead we intend to strengthen the links between the requirements boards and the industrial strategy movement by encouraging dialogue between the boards and the sector working parties.

Meanwhile, believing that the willingness of industrial firms to pay for research is a good criterion of relevance, in the department's Industrial Research Establishments we are giving increased priority to contract research on full repayment terms.

My second proposition is that in seeking to make better use of existing knowledge, we must not neglect knowledge outside this country. It is reckoned that UK expenditure on research and development is only about 7 per cent of that of the western world. We need to draw on the other 93 per cent. Of course many companies take much trouble to do this. My department seeks to make some contribution. Our Technology Reports Centre at Orpington runs alerting and information retrieval services and can provide copies of overseas reports. The department has joined with the British Library, the Chemical Society and the Institution of Electrical Engineers in launching a new company, Info-line Ltd, to provide computer-based on-line information retrieval services in science and technology. A physical properties data service, for use in the design and operation of process plant, is being developed in partnership with the Institution of Chemical Engineers. This and Info-line cover information from all sources, at home as well as overseas. Our science and technology counsellors in certain large embassies seek to provide information about scientific and technical developments in their host countries; their services are at the disposal of research associations and of individual companies.

Many research associations have important overseas links, and derive good income from exporting technological advice. It is to be hoped that whenever possible the opportunity is taken to associate with this work some manufacturing companies, so that the sale of know-how is combined with the sale of products and services. The question is, whether we are getting enough benefit from technology imports through research associations. If any research association does see a possibility of strengthening those of its services which assess the technology being developed in other countries, the Department of Industry would be prepared to consider proposals for modest funding of a pump priming nature to speed up such strengthening, always provided that it can be done within the necessary limits of proper control of public expenditure.

The third proposition enters more difficult and delicate ground. Not only do we need to make existing knowledge more widely available. We have to find ways to alert managements to its significance, and to encourage them to act. The department's committee for Industrial Technologies has for long been operating in this area, mainly where several disciplines are involved and a wide range of industries. The new names tribology and terotechnology will be familiar to many, as well as the subjects of corrosion and materials handling. The department supports the Design Council, encouraging particularly their work on engineering design and the introduction of a design advisory service which helps to link design needs of manufacturing firms with specialist help from research associations. The department has been experimenting with various schemes to encourage companies to make use of expert advisers from outside to help to identify technical changes which are practicable.

Some of the industry schemes, under which the department is providing financial assistance to speed the re-equipment of certain sectors of manufacturing industry, include provision for cost-sharing arrangements intended to help small and medium sized companies to use consultants. Since 1975 under the energy thrift scheme staff of research associations and consultants have made some 700 one day visits to companies.

Over the past year, with the support of the NEDC in the context of industrial strategy, the department has operated on a small scale certain pilot technology advisory schemes using outside consultants as well as the department's own staff for visits to individual companies. On the basis of these schemes and other experience, my Secretary of State announced last week that the department is setting up a Manufacturing Advisory Service designed to help smaller and medium sized firms in manufacturing industry, especially those engaged in metal working and assembly, to make better use of proven technologies. Advice will be offered, free of charge for a limited initial period, through visiting consultants drawn from the most appropriate sources available. The scheme will be financed by the department and managed under contract by the Production Engineering Research Association, but the consultants may come from other Research Associations, or other groups of industrial consultants, or universities, or government research establishments or other centres. In addition to this general service, the department expects to be providing a number of other schemes for specific sectors, for example non-ferrous foundries.

My fourth proposition takes the idea of using advisers and consultants a stage further. There is a need in the field of technology transfer as elsewhere in our industrial life to encourage more mobility of people. Large and successful industrial companies commonly move able people about to the places where improvements can be made. Having taken part in such work, they either join the production or marketing staffs, or may return to the development shop or research bench. This ought to happen more widely. More movement of people, not necessarily on a permanent basis, could help to provide companies, particuarly smaller companies, with skills which at present they lack. The government has a role in relation to its own staff. There ought to be more interchanges of scientific and technological staff between the government and industry, both on a temporary and on a permanent basis. The government service can benefit from imports of people with practical experience from Industry.

The Department of Industry has four major research establishments with a total staff of around 3,000. Many are skilled professional scientists and technologists. It has often been suggested that it would be good if some of these people moved into industry for periods of a year or two, to take part there in improvement or technology transfer programmes. Various attempts have been made to encourage this; but the results have been meagre. When it has been done, all concerned speak warmly of the benefits.

To sum up, technology transfer, the dissemination and exploitation of existing knowledge to improve efficiency in providing the market with the products and services it needs, is a key strand of industrial strategy. But industrial strategy, and technology transfer within it, has to be, and is, tripartite, a joint effort between management, unions and the government. It is the efforts of industry itself which are decisive.

Finance for technology

The National Research Development Corporation provides financial and other support for technological developments of potential commercial importance. NRDC promotes the adoption by industry of new products and processes invented in government laboratories, universities and elsewhere. NRDC is participating in joint ventures with industry on an increasing scale. By supporting projects NRDC makes it possible for individual firms or groups of companies to undertake and accelerate the development and production of new products and processes of national importance. The corporation welcomes submissions in confidence from firms who have promising new projects to launch in any branch of industry or commerce. The conditions for its considering proposals of this kind are set out in a leaflet which may be obtained on application, either by writing to the National Research Development Corporation, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SL, or by telephoning 01-828 3400.

New products

Dealing with glass fibre waste

Anchorpac, a specialist British waste compactor manufacturer, has succeeded in designing a handling system for thousands of tons of springy glass-fibre waste offcuts for St Gobian, a French insulating materials manufacturer.

This specially modified P-65 system has already proved itself capable of compressing the glass-fibre waste by 6:1 while packing into 26m³ ejection containers which can be completely filled in 1.5 hours with the normal flow of refuse.

On the strength of this performance Anchorpac has commissioned a second P-65 compaction system at the large St Gobian Orange plant in the south of France.

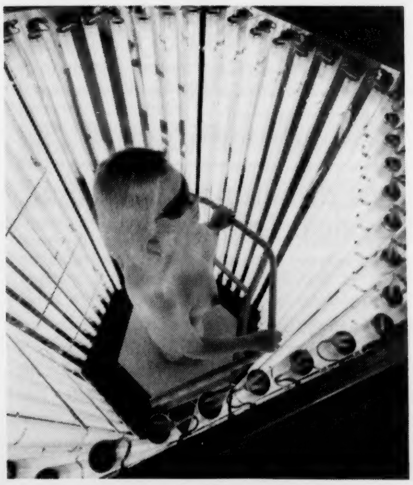
At Orange, waste is collected around the factory in 6m³ bins for discharge by a specially designed dumper into the packer. At both plants Anchorpac machines are now regularly achieving a compaction ratio of 7.5:1.

Further information: circle 354

Treatment for psoriasis

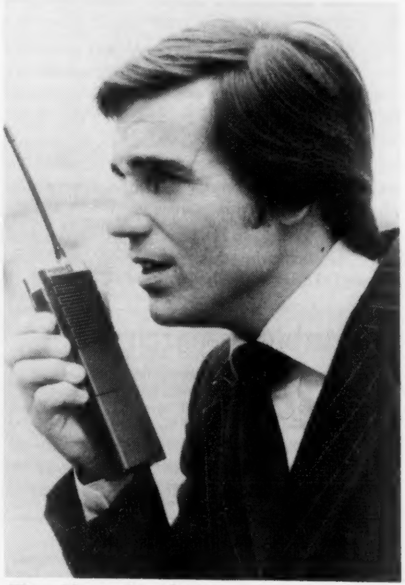
Thorn Lighting Ltd has contributed its expertise to the development of the first British machine for treating the skin disease psoriasis by the new PUVA (psoralen and ultra violet) method. The first of the new machines was installed in the out-patients' department at the London Hospital. The patient, after taking a drug called 8-methoxypsoralen (psoralen) and giving it time to become absorbed, is subjected to strong ultra-violet light inside the machine. The UV activates the drug, but only where it is held in surface tissues near the skin, enabling it to heal the skin with less risk of harmful side effects.

Further information: circle 355



Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.



Radiotelephone

A miniature handheld radiotelephone is now available from Redifon Telecommunications of Wandsworth, London, the Redicom Prt 20 – which, although unusually lightweight, is rugged enough to withstand a certain amount of rough treatment. The small size of this UHF unit has been achieved by the use of monolithic crystal filters, helial resonators and temperature compensated crystals.

Further information: circle 356

Distribution amplifier systems

Crow of Reading has now introduced a range of television signal distribution amplifier assemblies of modular design, which can be supplied in any configuration to meet requirements.

The system is based on the Crow/Sandar series of individual printed-circuit modules, comprising pulse distribution amplifier module, video distribution amplifier module, and passive equaliser module. This equaliser is intended for use in conjunction with the video DA to form an equalising amplifier. The required modules are normally assembled in a frame but individual housings or special housings are, however, also available.

Further information: circle 357

Industrial surveillance

Microwave Associates Ltd of Dunstable, has introduced a low-cost microwave television link suitable for medium or short-range transmission of monochrome picture signals. Operating in L-band (1 to 2GHz), the link comprises a transmitter, suitable for direct modulation from a low-cost television camera, and a heterodyne converter unit which forms an external microwave front-end tuner to a domestic type uhf television receiver.

Further information: circle 358

Constant rotation of microdiluters

A development now available from Dynatech Laboratories, Billingshurst, is the Rotatiter, a low-cost, electrically-powered handle for the continuous rotation of microdiluters and assuring reproducible mixing. It enables semi-automated diluting techniques to be carried out in laboratories which previously were carried out by hand.

Further information: circle 359

Mechanical giraffe

'Giraffe' is a new all-purpose long-reach cutting machine that can be equipped with a Hydrocut saw or Hornet flail head. It is rear mounted for stability and can be fitted to almost any tractor by one man in one hour. This versatile machine from Hydrocut Ltd, with its reach of 7m and 230 degree swivel head, is capable of side and top cutting. It is suitable for use on trees and high hedges, orchard windbreaks, ditches or banks.

Further information: circle 360

Technology news

Chemical emergency agency service

The final form of Harwell's new Chemical Emergency Agency Service has been agreed in co-operation with chemical manufacturers, transporters and traders and the service is now fully operational.

Under the scheme the laboratory will maintain, on behalf of companies consigning chemicals, a continuously manned telephone service which will provide advice to the emergency services in the event of an incident. Members of the scheme can display a Harwell emergency telephone number on any container or hazard information panel so that in the event of an incident the emergency services may contact Harwell direct rather than the company concerned.

If necessary, where immediate advice is needed a member of the Harwell team can represent the company.

Any company participating in the scheme will be required to provide Harwell with details of its products in a prescribed form. Confidential information will be respected.

Payment for the service is by means of an annual fee assessed on the number of different materials transported, plus actual charges for dealing with incidents.

Bob Cumberland, manager of the Harwell Chemical Emergency Centre, which operates the scheme, said: 'We now know from the number of inquiries we have already had that we have produced a workable scheme. Negotiations for entry are currently proceeding with more than 30 companies. We think this scheme provides a valuable insurance policy to companies who feel unable to maintain a continuously manned emergency telephone service themselves.'

Inquiries to: J. S. Hutchins, Marketing and Sales Department, Building 329, AERE, Harwell, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 0RA.

Profitable research

Increased income during 1976 provided ERA Ltd with an operating surplus of £142,244, nearly double that of 1975. ERA Ltd, formerly Electrical Research Association, attributes its success to a widening range of skills and facilities matched to meet the requirements of its customers. Several new major UK and overseas organisations joined the technical services and membership scheme which enables the maximum benefit to be obtained from these services. Overseas work represented 17 per cent of ERA's income in 1976.

One third of ERA's activity is now computer related through computer assisted design engineering, mini and microcomputer-based systems and equipment, and a computer services bureau. In 1976 ERA was appointed sole foreign sub-contractor for the design and specification of a complete automation system for an oil terminal and harbour complex near Lisbon, the most advanced in Europe.

Expertise was extended into the field of plastics and a new plastics creep laboratory was commissioned. Clients were offered greater assistance with their marketing operations with the formation of a marketing action group. In radio frequency technology a collaborative activity with the Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute, Chicago, man-portable integrated-antenna packages have been designed for use in microwave and millimetre wave communication links.

Growing interest in energy conservation and renewable energy resources and related equipment resulted in new contracts, including a study of the feasibility of a wind driven power supply for Cape Wrath lighthouse which has been undertaken for the Northern Lighthouse Board. A dielectric test set was introduced with temperature and humidity control enabling precise determination of dielectric properties over a wide temperature and frequency range. A purpose-built laboratory was set up for the development of a new generation of dielectric instruments working above 100MHz. A novel method for producing transparent electrodes on glass by screen printing and firing, and the production of the world's first air-firing, base-metal, thick-film resistor pastes were significant advances made by ERA's industrial electronics team.

Further information: circle 361

Waveform analysis

The spectrum analyser with digital storage developed by Marconi Instruments of St Albans. It is designed to provide a solution to waveform analysis in the 30Hz to 110MHz frequency range, a vital measurement in telecommunications and other electronics fields. It is claimed to offer improved display range and resolution, ease of operation by semi-technical personnel and much faster throughput of the electronic material under test. The company has just won the Queen's award for technological achievement.

New director for National Physical Laboratory

Eric Varley, the Secretary of State for Industry, has approved the appointment of Dr Paul Dean as director of the National Physical Laboratory. Dr Dean, 44 years of age, has been deputy director of the laboratory since 1974. He is to take up his new appointment on 1 October.

Parliament

Monday, 9 May

Finished and semi-manufactured goods

Ron Thomas (Bristol North West) asked for the increase or decrease in the first quarter of 1977 in volume terms of: (a) British exports and (b) imports into Great Britain of finished and semi-finished manufactured goods.

Mr Meacher gave the following information:

VOLUME OF UK EXPORTS AND IMPORTS
(Overseas trade statistics basis)

	Percentage change† Q1 1977 on Q4 1976	
	Exports	Imports*
Finished manufactures	−2½	+3½
Semi-manufactures	+2½	+2½

† Based on seasonally adjusted data.

* The percentage changes for imports are likely to be overstated as a result of difficulties in allowing fully in the seasonal adjustment for the effects of the 1976/77 Christmas/New Year holiday period. Exports are probably little affected.

Source:
Tables B13 and E7 of the April issue of 'Monthly Review of External Trade Statistics'.

Morgan Heating Services (South West) Ltd

Terry Walker (Kingswood) asked whether an inquiry would be set up into the insolvency of Morgan Heating Services (South West) Ltd and the closure of its Bristol branch.

Mr Clinton Davis pointed out that insolvency was not regarded as a ground for an investigation under the Companies Acts. Nevertheless, if he were provided with all the relevant facts about this company it would be considered, together with other information available.

Landing rights at Kaitak

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what is the estimated benefit to the United Kingdom balance of payments derived from negotiated landing rights at Kaitak airport in Hong Kong.

Mr Clinton Davis pointed out that the principal beneficiary from negotiated landing rights at Hong Kong was Hong Kong itself from the trade and tourism which air services facilitate and from the very substantial revenues earned by the Hong Kong-based airline, Cathay Pacific Airways. It was not possible to give other than a best approximation of the benefits accruing to the UK balance of payments. This was put at around £10 million per year at the present time.

Statistical inquiry into catering

David Mitchell (Basingstoke) asked what explicit user requirements outside of government would be satisfied by the statistical inquiry into catering being carried out by the Business Statistics Office for 1977; and which questions were included for which there was no explicit government requirement.

Mr Meacher said the breakdown of turnover by commodity groups was of interest to market researchers and to some catering trade users. The firm base provided by this inquiry for the quarterly series of catering turnover was also of importance to some catering trade users. The needs of the tourist boards for separate country information on catering turnover were met by the inquiry. No questions were included for which there was no explicit government requirement.

Profits on school uniforms

John Cartwright (Greenwich, Woolwich East) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, when he expected to receive the report of the Price Commission investigation into prices and profits on school uniforms.

Mr Fraser said that it was expected by about the end of July.

Rachets or socket sets

John Osborn (Sheffield, Hallam) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he would now take steps in conjunction with the EEC to put anti-dumping duties on sets of rachets, as recently drawn to his attention by hand tool manufacturers, and make efforts to speed up the process of preventing hardship on British and other EEC manufacturers.

Mr Meacher said that if this referred to the application concerning socket sets, a team from the government's anti-dumping unit was now in Japan, acquiring evidence on which a final decision could be made. He had considered very carefully the request for a provisional charge to duty but had concluded that it would not be appropriate.

Safety at sea

James Johnson (Kingston upon Hull West) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he was satisfied with the measures of safety at sea for seamen and fishermen; and if he would make a statement regarding any proposed future legislation on this matter.

Mr Clinton Davis said that measures to protect the safety of seamen and fishermen were already of a high standard but were being further improved. There was before parliament a Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Bill to permit UK ratification of the 1974 international convention for the safety of life at sea and a larger merchant shipping bill including further safety measures is in course of preparation. New regulations regarding certificates of competency were also due to be made shortly.

Imports of footwear

Robert Boscawen (Wells) asked what was the policy towards the level of United Kingdom imports of footwear of all types in the first quarters of 1977 from Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore and Taiwan.

Mr Meacher said that imports from these sources in the first quarter of 1977 had increased by comparison with the same period of last year. He was awaiting a submission from the industry requesting import restraints on non-EEC countries not already covered by such restraints, and would give this urgent consideration as soon as he received it.

Lager and lime

Geoffrey Dosdworth (South West Hertfordshire) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if he would take steps to ensure that drinkers of lager and lime, shandy and other such drinks were charged only for the quantity of lager or beer which they received in the glass in addition to the mineral water or cordial.

Mr Fraser said he presumed the question referred to the Price Commission's finding that the prices charged for lager and lime and shandy were often higher than the costs of their constituents sold separately. He said that initial comments on the report from interested parties had been received and were now being considered with a view to discussing the commission's recommendations.

Index of retail prices

Norman Tebbit (Waltham Forest, Chingford) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, upon what evidence he based his statement of 2 May that the index of retail prices would remain at or about its present level for the next three or four months and then begin to reduce from the autumn onwards.

Mr Hattersley pointed out that what he had in mind was the rate of increase in the retail price index. The stability of the exchange rate for sterling and the success of the present pay agreement were but two of the factors which would ensure that the rate of inflation reduced from the autumn onwards.

Ministers

Department of Industry

Secretary of State: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries
of State: Robert Cryer
Leslie Huckfield

Department of Trade

Secretary of State: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries
of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State: Robert Maclennan

Rise in retail prices and food prices

Ivor Clemitson (Luton East) asked for the percentage rise in retail prices in each of the past five years; and the corresponding figures for each of the other member countries of the EEC. He also asked for the percentage rise in food prices in each of the past five years; and the corresponding figures for each of the other member countries of the EEC.

Mr Fraser gave the information as follows:

INCREASES IN CONSUMER PRICES IN EEC COUNTRIES

	Percentage change on year earlier:				
Country	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
West Germany	5.5	6.9	7.0	6.0	4.5
France	5.9	7.3	14.0	11.8	9.2
Italy	5.7	10.8	19.1	17.0	16.8
Netherlands	7.8	8.0	9.7	10.2	8.8
Belgium	5.5	7.0	12.6	12.7	9.2
Luxembourg	5.2	6.2	9.4	10.8	9.8
Denmark	6.6	9.3	15.2	9.6	9.0
Irish Republic	8.7	11.3	17.0	20.9	18.0
United Kingdom	7.1	9.2	16.1	24.2	16.5

Sources:
International Financial Statistics.
Department of Employment.

FOOD PRICE INCREASES IN EEC COUNTRIES

	Percentage change on year earlier:				
Country	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
West Germany	6.2	7.6	4.7	5.2	5.1
France	7.9	9.4	12.6	10.1	10.7
Italy	6.3	12.0	17.8	18.0	17.1
Netherlands	6.6	7.9	7.2	8.0	9.9
Belgium	6.6	8.0	9.4	11.2	12.3
Luxembourg	6.7	7.0	9.0	11.2	12.1
Denmark	9.0	13.6	11.9	11.1	10.8
Irish Republic	11.8	16.4	14.6	21.4	16.5
United Kingdom	8.9	15.1	18.0	25.6	20.0

Source:
UN Monthly Bulletin of Statistics.
Department of Employment.

Note:
The coverage of the underlying index varies between countries particularly in respect of the inclusion of alcoholic drink and tobacco.

Weights and Measures Act

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody (Crewe) asked if the penalties for infringements of the Weights and Measures Acts would be reviewed in order to bring them into line with the penalties provided in other more recent consumer protection legislation, such as the Trade Descriptions Act, the Prices Act and the Consumer Credit Act.

Mr Fraser pointed out that the penalty for certain offences under the Weights and Measures Act 1963 had been increased from £20 to £50 by the Weights and Measures, Etc, Act 1976. When the Weights and Measures Act 1963 was next amended he would consider the case for bringing the penalties for the other offences into line with those in other legislation.

Milk, cheese and bread

Michael Marshall (Arundel) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection when he expected to announce his decision to end subsidies on milk, cheese and bread.

Mr Fraser said these subsidies would be ended during 1977. Precise termination dates had not yet been decided.

Price of bread

Mrs Sally Oppenheim (Gloucester) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, how many times the maximum price of bread had risen between 2 February 1977 and 9 May 1977.

Mr Fraser said once – on Monday, 7 March.

Percentage increase in food prices

John Roper (Farnworth) asked for the percentage increase in the price of; (a) all food items, (b) foods subject to the common agricultural policy and (c) foods not subject to the common agricultural policy in 1976 and from the beginning of phase 2 until the latest date for which statistics are available.

Mr Hattersley replied that the retail food index had increased by 22.1 per cent in the 12 months up to the end of 1976, and by 17.7 per cent between August 1976 and March 1977.

The common agricultural policy (CAP) support prices had been raised by 7½ per cent on average in the price package in spring 1976, and by 3½ per cent in the price package in spring 1977. In addition, support prices in the United Kingdom had been increased by the transitional steps due under the treaty of accession, the last of which was to take place on 31 December this year. Taking account both of the increases negotiated in the price package, and of the transitional steps, the 1976 price package estimated to have increased the retail food index by about 2 per cent and the 1977 package by about 1¼ per cent during the period to next April.

The prices set under the CAP were farm support prices, not retail prices. Some farm products supported under the CAP entered into the production costs of others not so supported; and many foods in the shops contained combination of farm products supported under the CAP and those not so supported. This meant that it was not possible to distinguish clearly between those foods in the shops which were and were not subject to the CAP.

Boards of public corporations

Bryan Gould (Southampton, Test) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would publish a list of the vacancies for membership of the boards of public corporations for which he was sponsoring authority which had been advertised publicly in the last five years.

Mr Huckfield said that in the case of the National Research Development Corporation the managing director's post was advertised in January 1974 and those of three other board members in January and February 1977.

Power plant manufacturing industry

Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked the Secretary of State for Industry to explain his policy towards a continued United Kingdom power plant manufacturing industry for the future of the electricity generating industry.

Mr Cryer said he hoped to enable the industry to overcome its problems through a series of coordinated measures based on those proposed in the CPRS report.

Crude steel, pig iron and tinplate

Gwynfor Evans (Carmarthen) asked what proportion of United Kingdom crude steel, pig iron and tinplate had been produced in Wales in 1976. He also asked how many tons of steel were produced in 1967 in England, Scotland and Wales, respectively; and how many tons it was estimated would be produced in 1977.

Mr Huckfield gave the following figures:

PERCENTAGE OF UK PRODUCTION IN WALES IN 1976

Crude steel	28
Blast furnace iron	33
Tinplate	100

Source:
Iron and Steel Statistics Bureau.

CRUDE STEEL PRODUCTION Million tonnes

	1967
England	13.5
Scotland	2.6
Wales	8.1

Source:
Iron and Steel Statistics Bureau.
Estimates for 1977 are not available.

Payments under the Industry Act

Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked for a list of all payments made under section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 from 1 March 1974 to 30 April 1977, listing payments to individual companies and payments under schemes of assistance.

Mr Cryer said payments under section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 between 1 March 1974 and 30 April 1977 had been as follows:

£ million

	Payments
Individual companies	
Norton Villiers Triumph	0.275
Kearney and Trecker Marwin	6.250
Meriden Co-operative	4.954
Moira	0.120
Automatic Oil Tools	0.500
Cambridge Instruments Co Ltd	4.500
Salvesen Offshore Drilling	0.490
Dri-Co	0.500
Alfred Herbert	26.200
Chrysler (UK) Ltd	41.500(1)
Seaforth Maritime	0.950
British Leyland	30.000
Drake and Cubitt Ltd	0.598
Wolverhampton Industrral Engines	0.200
Schemes of assistance	
Accelerated project scheme	6.748
Offshore supplies interest relief grant scheme	6.165
Wool textile (1)	11.432
Clothing industry	0.320
Ferrous foundry	3.665
Machine tools	0.564
Paper and board	0.125
Poultry meat	0.063

Note:
(1) This figure represents payments made under clause 2(6) of the agreement with Chrysler dated 5 January 1976. Additionally, certain advances in respect of the guaranteed loan have been made in accordance with clause 5 of the agreement. For confidentiality reasons he was not prepared to disclose the amount of the advances.

Government factories

Mr Grylls also asked how many government factories were currently unoccupied; what was the date of their construction; and where they were located.

Mr Cryer said at 30 April 1977 the number of unoccupied government factories in England was 109 including 40 terraced units (ie small factory units contained in blocks of terraced factories). Their locations, and in the case of new advance factories, their dates of completion, were as follows:

Advance factories(1)	Completed
NORTHERN REGION	
Cleator Moor (2 terraced units)	Aug 1974
Hebburn (2 terraced units)	Mar 1977
Hebburn	Apr 1977
Workington	Sep 1974
Workington	Feb 1976
Consett	Sep 1974
Consett	Feb 1976
Stanley	Aug 1975
Stanley	Nov 1976
Team Valley, Gateshead	Aug 1975
Team Valley, Gateshead	Mar 1976
Houghton-le-Spring	Jan 1976
Houghton-le-Spring	Jan 1976
Houghton-le-Spring	Jan 1976
Houghton-le-Spring	Mar 1977
Jarrow	Feb 1976
Cramlington	Feb 1976
Cramlington	Mar 1977
Sunderland	Apr 1976
Sunderland	Apr 1976
Teesside	Jun 1976
Teesside	Jan 1976
Teesside	Mar 1977
Millom (DC)(2)	Jun 1976
Millom (DC)	Oct 1976
Berwick (4 terraced units (DC))	Jun 1976
Blyth	Apr 1977
Blyth	Oct 1975
Blyth	Mar 1977
Tynemouth	Jan 1976
Tynemouth	Jan 1976
Ashington	Feb 1976
Ashington	Feb 1976
Ashington	Mar 1977
Hartlepool	Aug 1975
NORTH-WEST REGION	
Bromborough	Mar 1977
Lancaster	Oct 1976
St Helens	Feb 1976
Knowsley (4 terraced units)	Mar 1976
Knowsley (3 terraced units)	Mar 1976
Knowsley	Jan 1976
Knowsley	Feb 1976
Knowsley	Feb 1976
Knowsley	Feb 1976
Knowsley	Mar 1976
Wigan	Jan 1976
Wigan	Jan 1976
Wigan	Feb 1976
YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE REGION	
Normanton	Dec 1975
Doncaster	May 1976
Doncaster	May 1976
Doncaster (1 terraced unit)	Jul 1974
Rotherham	Mar 1977
Brighouse	Apr 1977
Hull	Feb 1976
Barnsley (2 terraced units)	Mar 1976
Bridlington (2 terraced units)	Dec 1975
SOUTH-WEST REGION	
Callington	Jul 1976
Newquay	Dec 1974
Truro	Jan 1977
Truro	Aug 1974
Penryn	Nov 1976
EAST MIDLANDS REGION	
Worksop	Apr 1977
Claycross	Aug 1976
Previously occupied factories currently unoccupied(3):	
NORTHERN REGION	
Ashington(3)	
Hartlepool(2)	
Cramlington	
Houghton-le-Spring	
Houghton-le-Spring	
South Shields	
North Tees(3)	
North Tees (1 terraced unit)	
St Helen, Auckland(3)	
Jarrow(3)	
Shildon	
Team Valley, Gateshead(4)	
Team Valley, Gateshead (1 terraced unit)	
Brandon	
East Middlesbrough(2)	
Teesside (1 terraced unit)	
Sunderland(2)	
Blyth	
West Chirton	
NORTH-WEST REGION	
Huyton	
SOUTH-WEST REGION	
Penryn	
Plymouth	

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(1) 19 advance factories listed (including eight terraced units) have been allocated to prospective tenants.

(2) (DC) = factories funded by the Development Commission.

(3) 32 previously occupied factories (including three terraced units) are undergoing modernisation or renovation; 20 including one terraced unit remain leased to tenants.

By 31 March 1977 24 million sq ft of government factory space in England was occupied by 439 tenants providing 83,681 jobs.

Gatt negotiations

Jim Lester (Beeston) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if he would report on the progress being made in the Gatt negotiations, and in the negotiations on a new multifibre arrangement.

Mr Dell stated that at the Downing Street summit conference in London at the weekend, it had been agreed that a new impetus should be given to the Gatt negotiations and that the objective should be to achieve substantive progress in key areas this year. As regards the renegotiation of the multifibre arrangement, the community was now agreed on its general objectives but had yet to reach a final decision on the method it should propose to deal with the problem of cumulative disruption.

Trade with Japan

Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne), Roger Sims (Bromley, Chislehurst), Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford), and Ioan Evans (Aberdare) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, about trade with Japan.

Mr Dell said that during his discussions with Japanese ministers and business leaders he had stressed that a satisfactory trading relationship could not be achieved without a substantial increase in British exports to Japan. He looked forward to Japanese co-operation in improving opportunities for imports from the UK, and in continuing to restrain sensitive exports. The government would continue to give strong support to British businessmen wishing to sell in Japan.

A. M. Devereux Ltd

John Hunt (Bromley, Ravensbourne) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if he would seek an early meeting with the Official Receiver in companies liquidation with regard to the case of Messrs A. M. Devereux Ltd, in view of the continuing delay in resolving the liabilities of the company and making payment to the outstanding creditors.

Mr Clinton Davis said that a receiver for the debenture holder of A. M. Devereux Ltd was in possession of the assets, and was required to pay the preferential and debenture holder's claims. He was not in a position to intervene. He pointed out that the Official Receiver, as liquidator of the company, would not make any payments to the ordinary unsecured creditors until the receivership was completed and any surplus funds then remaining were paid over to him.

Trade with the EEC

Neil Marten (Banbury) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, whether he was satisfied with United Kingdom's trade with the EEC.

Mr Meacher said he was not. He was looking for a further improvement in visible trade with the community, following the reduction of some £270 million in the UK's deficit with them in 1976.

Balance of trade

Edwin Wainwright (Dearne Valley) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if he would make a statement on the latest balance of trade position.

Mr Dell declared there had been an underlying improvement in the United Kingdom's balance of payments position in recent months, which was expected to continue through 1977. See page 353.

Imports of foreign cars

Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, what had been the total import penetration of the British car market by foreign producers for the first three months of this year compared with the same period of 1976.

Mr Meacher said that according to figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, import penetration of the UK car market in the first three months of 1977 was 42.8 per cent compared with 34.7 per cent in the same period last year.

Scotch whisky

Mrs Margaret Bain (East Dunbartonshire) asked for the current level of exports of Scotch whisky; and how this compared with the level 10 years ago.

Mr Meacher announced that in the 12 months ending March 1977, 93 million proof gallons of Scotch and Northern Irish whisky had been exported, compared with 42 million in the same period ending March 1967.

Exports to Chile

John Ovenden (Gravesend) asked for the total value of exports to Chile in 1976; the corresponding figure for Chilean imports; and the figures to date for 1977.

Mr Meacher said that United Kingdom exports to Chile in 1976 and January to March 1977 were £36 million and £7 million fob, respectively, while imports into the United Kingdom were valued at £81 million and £20 million cif, respectively. These figures were published in the 'Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom'.

MFA agreements

Jim Marshall (Leicester South) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if he would list the countries with whom the EEC had negotiated an MFA agreement; and if he would list the countries with whom the EEC were currently negotiating or shortly to negotiate MFA agreements.

Mr Meacher said the EEC had negotiated MFA bilateral restraint agreements with Pakistan, India, Hong Kong, Japan, Macao, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Colombia, Brazil, Egypt, Yugoslavia, Romania and Thailand. The most recent, with Thailand, had been initialled on 3 May. The EEC also planned to negotiate agreements with Hungary, Poland and Mexico later this year.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Donald Stewart (Western Isles) asked for the profit or loss on the operations of the Export Credits Guarantee Department for each of the last five years.

Mr Meacher said that the department's financial objective on the credit insurance operations representing its main trading activity was to operate at no net cost to the consolidated fund after providing such reserves against its liabilities as might be agreed with the Treasury. Since 1974 these operations had produced the following results:

	1974/75	1975/76
Increment to reserves (£ million)		
Section 1	29.2	19.2
Section 2	21.2	21.7
Value of reserves (£ million)		
Section 1	152	171.2
Section 2	109.8	131.5
Reserve as percentage of amount at risk at year end		
Section 1	2.8	2.4
Section 2	4.2	4.2

Comparable figures for the previous three years were not available, because the form of accounts was changed in 1974. But the best measure of performance over this period was provided by the level of the department's balances held with the consolidated fund. These were as follows:

£ million

	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74
Balance held with the consolidated fund			
Section 1	93.5	86.7	109.4
Section 2	75.8	72.2	75.5

Level of unemployment

Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) asked for a list of any assisted areas where the level of unemployment in percentage terms at the latest available date was near to or below the national average.

Mr Cryer said that the assisted areas which had an unemployment rate at or below the Great Britain average of 5.8 per cent in March 1977 were as follows: North West intermediate area 5.6 per cent; Yorkshire and Humberside intermediate area 5.3 per cent; North Midlands intermediate area 4.7 per cent; High Peak intermediate area 3.3 per cent.

John F. Kennedy airport

Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if, as part of the renegotiation of the Bermuda agreement, he would seek to withdraw all traffic rights for non-stop flights between New York (John F. Kennedy) and British airports until Concorde had obtained landing rights to John F. Kennedy Airport in accordance with current treaty obligations; and if he would encourage the French government to take similar steps.

Mr Dell declined to disclose his tactics for the concluding stages of the renegotiation of the Bermuda agreement. See also page 334.

Helicopters over London

Nigel Spearing (Newham South) asked what were the current regulations or other rules in respect of authorised helicopter air corridors over built-up area of London, other than those designated over or near to the River Thames; and if he would make a statement concerning helicopter safety in the London area.

Mr Clinton Davis said that the general arrangements for the regulations and routing of helicopter flights in the London area were matters which fell within the responsibility of the Civil Aviation Authority. With regard to the safety of helicopter flights in the London area, this was also a matter for the authority and he had been assured that the helicopter route structure in the London control zone had been designed to ensure that, in the event of a failure of a power unit, a helicopter could alight in an open space. In the Greater London area, as in other built-up areas, helicopters were required to fly at a specified height, clear of obstacles from which they could alight without danger to persons or property on the surface in the event of a power unit failure. These requirements had been satisfactory but, nevertheless, the subject was kept under continuous review.

European Coal and Steel Community

Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby) wanted to know the value of: (a) tiding-over allowances and (b) resettlement grants paid by the European Coal and Steel Community to redundant workers in the United Kingdom, in the northern region, and in Cleveland county, respectively, over the last five years, and what financial assistance had been given by the European Coal and Steel Community towards helping to retrain redundant workers in the United Kingdom, in the northern region, and in Cleveland county, respectively, over the last five years.

Mr Huckfield said the table (below) showed the approximate total payments made under the iron and steel readaptation benefits scheme to UK steel workers, from 1 January 1973 to 31 March 1977 for weekly unemployment benefit, earnings made-up, and training allowances, and to 30 September 1976 for training costs and resettlement grants.

The ECSC contributed 50 per cent of the net costs of all these benefits except for some training, where the contribution is 33⅓ per cent. ECSC assistance for redundant coal industry employees was a matter for the Secretary of State for Energy.

Mr Wrigglesworth then asked what grants or loans had been made available by the European Coal and Steel Community to individuals and firms whose investments ensured the productive re-employment of workers made redundant in the iron and steel industry in the United Kingdom, in the northern region, and in Cleveland county, respectively, in the last five years.

Mr Huckfield gave the following information:

United Kingdom	£56.875 million
Northern region	£7.665 million
Cleveland county	£0.765 million

All figures referred to loans. The UK figure included a global loan of £10 million advanced to Finance for Industry for on-lending to small enterprises. It was not possible to provide a geographic breakdown of the use made of this loan though he understood the northern region had benefited from it.

	United Kingdom	Northern region	Cleveland county
Unemployment benefit	1,290,000	45,000	4,600
Earnings make-up	640,000	8,500	4,400
Training allowances	238,000	200	200
Training costs	700,000	1,750	1,750
Resettlement grants	11,000	—	—

British Airways

William Shelton (Lambeth, Streatham) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if he would list the disputes that had occurred at British Airways, or at BEA and BOAC before the formation of British Airways, over the last five years that had resulted in a loss of more than £1 million to the airline.

Mr Clinton Davis said that six disputes fell into this category. Industrial action had been taken by cabin crew and engineering supervisors in 1974, and by Tristar maintenance staff in 1975 when there were also problems with the integration of the cargo centre. This year there had been industrial action by aircraft and catering loaders, and most recently of course by engineering maintenance staff.

Bermuda agreement

Norman Tebbit (Waltham Forest, Chingford) and Sir George Young (Ealing, Acton) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if he would report on the progress being made in the renegotiation of the Bermuda agreement.

Mr Dell said that the fifth round of negotiations for a new air services agreement had been held in Washington from 28 March to 22 April. During his visit there on 26 and 27 April he had reviewed the position reached with the US ministers concerned. Although some progress had been made, there were important issues still to be resolved. Negotiations resumed in London on 16 May and he hoped the UK could reach agreement before the old agreement terminated on 22 June.

Bankruptcies and liquidations

David Mitchell (Basingstoke) asked for the latest figures for bankruptcies and liquidations; and by what percentage they exceeded or fell short of the average for 1972 and 1973, respectively.

Mr Clinton Davis stated that in the 12 months ending 31 March 1977, there had been 6,529 receiving and administration orders and 5,911 company liquidations in England and Wales. These exceeded the averages of 1972 and 1973 by 62 per cent and 110 per cent respectively.

Audit committees

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (Kensington and Chelsea, Kensington) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if he would make a statement of his views as to the value to companies of appointing audit committees in accordance with north American practice; and if it was his intention to propose that the appointment of audit committees should now be made statutory in certain classes of company.

Mr Clinton Davis agreed that proposals for the establishment of audit committees deserved attention and that they were being examined alongside the more fundamental reappraisal of the structure of companies following publication of the Bullock report.

Tuesday, 10 May

Rate of return on net trading assets

Sir John Hall (Wycombe) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, whether, when calculating the rate of return on net trading assets of particular industries, his department used the same method as that used by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Huckfield said his department used the figures prepared by the accountancy staff of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission except that for the rate of return at replacement cost after deducting stock appreciation. His department's statisticians, in estimating stock appreciation, used a different method and more detailed unpublished information. The resulting rates of return could be very different when price changes were large and variable.

Companies in Northallerton and Richmond

Sir Timothy Kitson (Richmond, Yorks) asked for the number of companies that had been assisted in Northallerton and Richmond within the development areas.

Mr Cryer said that from August 1972 to 28 February 1977 nine offers of selective financial assistance totalling £89,000 had been made to companies in Northallerton and Richmond under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972. These were expected to lead to the creation of 335 new jobs in these areas. Six applications amounting to £1,225,000 were under consideration under both sections 7 and 8 involving a further 173 jobs. Companies in these areas could also claim regional development grant paid under Part 1 of the Industry Act.

Wholesale fruit and vegetable trade

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody (Crewe) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if he would institute an inquiry into the widespread practice in the wholesale fruit and vegetable trade of giving short weight and measure, with power to make recommendations as to the adequacy of current weights and measures legislation to combat the problem which results in retailers having to charge more than they need for their goods.

Mr Fraser questioned whether the practice was widespread. He pointed out that many fresh fruits and vegetables were subject to heavy and unpredictable losses of weight in transit and storage. Consequently it had been long-established practice in the trade that certain transactions between the wholesaler and retailer took place on the basis of an assumed weight or measure, or the weight when packed. Legislation already provided that where, by agreement between the two parties, the transaction was by weight, then the retailer had the right to demand check-weighing of the produce concerned. In general, he believed that these matters were better regulated by trade practices agreed between the producer, the wholesaler and retailer, rather than by precise legislation, and did not consider that an inquiry was justified at the present time.

Chrysler and British Leyland

Jim Craigen (Glasgow, Maryhill) asked whether the price increases announced by Chrysler and British Leyland for their cars were subject to the approval of the Price Commission.

Mr Fraser confirmed that Chrysler and British Leyland were among the enterprises which had to notify the Price Commission in advance of their intended price increases. The commission did not normally approve price increases notified to it, but rejected or modified them if they did not comply with the provisions of the Price Code.

Late delivery of first class mail

Michael Marshall (Arundel) asked what percentage of first-class letters arrived at their destination later than the day after they were posted.

Mr Huckfield admitted that he had been informed by the Post Office that about 7 per cent of first-class letters were delivered later than the first working day after collection.

Loss of the 'Lovat'

Donald Anderson (Swansea East) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what action he proposed in response to the findings of the inquiry into the loss of the Lovat.

Mr Clinton Davis stated that the inquiry into the loss of the *Lovat* in January 1975 was one of the longest and most technically complex on record and had resulted in a detailed and valuable report by the court. As the report acknowledged, action had already been taken by the department on a number of matters since the casualty. With regard to the cargo, a working group studied the flow potential of particled coal products and advised the shipping industry on safety measures and testing facilities; related amendments had been made to the international code for safe practices for bulk cargoes. With regard to the rubber-proofed cotton fabric liferaft, which suffered a form of degradation, research had justified making rules to phase out all such liferafts by July 1979. Also, attention had been drawn to the importance of observing the statutory requirements for the annual inspection of liferafts. Following a review by a departmental committee, a co-ordinated programme for survival training was adopted including a compulsory induction course for new entrants. And, on search and rescue, Sea King helicopters were now available at shorter notice than in January 1975.

Other points made in the report were being carefully studied and, in particular, the further research and development work within the responsibility of the department was being put in hand.

Wednesday, 11 May

Imports in EEC

Ivor Clemitson (Luton East) asked what proportion of United Kingdom imports basic materials, food, beverages, tobacco, fuels and finished manufactures, constituted in volume and value, respectively, in each of the past five years; and what were the corresponding figures for each of the other member countries of the EEC.

Mr Meacher gave the following figures in terms of value and said that in each case consistent data on which to estimate proportions by volume were not available:

IMPORTS OF BASIC MATERIALS (SITC SECTIONS 2 AND 4) AS A PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL IMPORTS
Per cent

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
United Kingdom	11.9	12.4	11.2	9.2	10.3
Denmark	7.3	7.1	7.2	5.9	5.9
Belgium/Luxembourg	9.9	10.3	10.8	8.9	8.9(1)
France	9.9	10.5	10.3	8.4	8.2
Germany, Federal Republic of	11.2	11.9	12.4	10.6	10.0
Irish Republic	5.8	7.3	7.3	4.7	5.3
Italy	14.9	16.3	15.3	13.1	13.6(2)
Netherlands	8.8	9.1	9 3	7.8	7.5(1)

(1) January-November. (2) January-September.

Source:
1972-75 – OECD Foreign Trade Statistics Series B.
1976 – OECD Foreign Trade Statistics Series A, national publications and Eurostat External Trade.

IMPORTS OF FOOD, BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO (SITC SECTIONS 0 AND 1) AS A PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL IMPORTS
Per cent

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
United Kingdom	21.1	19.5	16.4	18.1	16.0
Denmark	9.7	10.1	8.5	8.6	9.6
Belgium/Luxembourg	12.2	12.2	10.1	11.7	11.5(1)
France	12.2	12.4	8.9	11.4	10.6
Germany, Federal Republic of	16.9	16.5	13.2	14.0	13.9
Irish Republic	13.0	12.7	12.1	13.3	12.3
Italy	20.5	20.1	14.5	17.3	15.4(2)
Netherlands	13.0	14.1	12.4	13.8	13.3(1)

(1) January-November. (2) January-September.

Source:
1972-75 – OECD Statistics of Foreign Trade Series B.
1976 – OECD Statistics of Foreign Trade Series A, national publications and Eurostat External Trade.

Continued at top of next page.

IMPORTS OF FUELS (SITC SECTION 3) AS A PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL IMPORTS

Per cent

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
United Kingdom	11.2	10.9	20.0	17.9	18.1
Denmark	10.9	10 6	19.2	18.6	16.5
Belgium/Luxembourg	10.1	8.7	14.3	14.3	12.9(1)
France	13.2	12.4	22.9	22.9	22.4
Germany, Federal Republic of	9.2	11.4	19.3	17.7	17.8
Irish Republic	7.5	6.8	13.9	14.1	13.4
Italy	15.0	14.1	26.6	27.1	25.8(2)
Netherlands	13.2	13.3	18.1	17.9	19.4(1)

(1) January-November. (2) January-September.

Source:

1972-75 – OECD Statistics of Foreign Trade Series B.

1976 – OECD Statistics of Foreign Trade Series A, national publications and Eurostat External Trade

IMPORTS OF FINISHED MANUFACTURES (SITC SECTIONS 7 AND 8) AS A PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL IMPORTS

Per cent

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
United Kingdom	28.1	29.2	24.1	26.6	28.4
Denmark	36.8	38.3	32.3	36.4	37.8
Belgium/Luxembourg	36.6	35.8	30.7	34.8	34.2(1)
France	35.2	34.6	28.8	30.7	29.7
Germany, Federal Republic of	30.7	28.9	25.2	29.1	29.2
Irish Republic	35.4	36.2	30.6	33.9	35.0
Italy	25.2	24.3	19.2	22.2	17.3(2)
Netherlands	36.0	34.6	30.9	34.2	32.5(1)

(1) January-November. (2) January-September.

Source:

1972-75 – OECD Statistics of Foreign Trade Series B.

1976 – OECD Statistics of Foreign Trade Series A, national publications and Eurostat External Trade.

OIL TRADE

Thousand metric tonnes

	1974		1975		1976	
	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
United Kingdom						
Crude oil, NGL and feedstocks	112,815	1,403	91,360	1,524	94,066	4,332
Finished products*	14,773	14,396	12,456	13,663	10,424	15,677
United States						
Crude oil, NGL and feedstocks	180,810	745	207,806	1,077	290,271	254
Finished products*	122,089	9,303	91,750	8,184	78,795	6,651
France					(January-September)	
Crude oil, NGL and feedstocks	130,031	—	106,682	—	89,142	—
Finished products*	6,509	10,176	6,675	9,251	6,563	7,503
Germany, Federal Republic of						
Crude oil, NGL and feedstocks	104,459	—	91,848	14	102,025	31
Finished products*	36,996	9,350	37,355	6,463	40,234	6,696
Japan						
Crude oil, NGL and feedstocks	237,839	—	223,302	—	229,073	—
Finished products*	23,938	2,142	16,690	1,259	22,776	207

* Finished products: Gasoline, kerosene, distillate fuels, residual fuel oils, lubricating oils, paraffin, waxes, bitumen, asphalt fluxes and cutbacks, other petroleum gases, white spirit, miscellaneous products including petroleum coke.

WORKERS CO-OPERATIVES

Name	Amount of assistance	Form of assistance	Date assistance offered	Current employment	
				Men	Women
Bardrec Ltd	£21,000	Loan	July 1975	29	7
Scottish News Enterprises Ltd	£1.2 million	Loan	April 1975	Nil	Nil
Sunderlandia Ltd	£2,210	Grant	October 1973	7*	
Kirkby Manufacturing and Engineering Ltd	£3.9 million £0.86 million	Grant Grant	November 1977 April 1977	693	111
Meriden Motorcycles Ltd	£4.2 million £0.75 million £0.5 million	Loan Grant Grant	July 1974 March 1977	660*	

*Total employment: separate figures not available.

Oil trade

Mike Noble (Rossendale) asked what had been the level of imports and exports of oil, respectively, into and from the United Kingdom, the United States of America, France, Germany and Japan for 1974, 1975, 1976 and the first quarter of 1977, respectively.

Mr Meacher gave the information (table below left) covering volume trade flows of crude oil, NGL and feedstocks and petroleum finished products for 1974, 1975 and 1976 taken from OECD quarterly oil statistics. No later figures were available.

Consultancy contracts

J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, if he would list those accountancy firms which had received consultancy contracts from his department in the past three years, stating the subjects of such consultancy and the fees paid in each case.

Mr Huckfield gave the following information. The department's total expenditure on each of the named consultancy contracts is:

Company	Subject of consultancy	Total expenditure
Arthur Andersen and Co	Further assistance in connection with financial information systems	£1,467
P. S. Ross and Partners	Assistance on Canadian inward investment	£4,936
Touche Ross and Co	Study of Greenwell Dry Docks Ltd	£3,198
Peat Marwick Mitchell and Co	Assistance in connection with terotechnology (life-cycle costing)	£10,529

Flights diverted

Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked how many British Airways flights had been diverted to regional airports during the recent engineers dispute at Heathrow; for a list of the airports and the number of flights involved; and an indication of the number of protests about noise received at each airport handling the extra traffic.

Mr Clinton Davis pointed out that no long-haul flights had been diverted to regional airports in the United Kingdom. Short-haul arrivals had been diverted from Heathrow in the following numbers: Birmingham 1; Bournemouth (Hurn) 55; East Midlands (Castle Donington) 8; Gatwick 3; Luton 10; Southampton 229; Stansted 10. No complaints relating to these diversions had been received by the department.

Workers' co-operatives

Michael Brotherton (Louth) asked for the names of the workers' co-operatives which were currently being provided with public funds; how much public money had been made available to them to date; what was their annual cost to public funds; how many men and women they each currently employed and what was the value of their exports in the latest year for which figures were available.

Mr Cryer gave the information (table left) in connection with selective financial assistance under part II of the Industry Act 1972.

Given the nature of the assistance it was not possible to ascribe to these co-operatives an annual cost to public funds. The disclosure of these companies' exports was a commercial matter for their judgement.

Do you use statistics?

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) prepares a wide range of reliable and detailed figures on the United Kingdom. It is usually worth checking to see if what you want is available from them. You can see many Government statistical publications at your local public library, buy them from HMSO or refer to the comprehensive collection held at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4N 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368).

A free pamphlet, *Government Statistics – a brief guide to sources*, gives up-to-date contact points in Departments for further information. You can obtain copies from regional offices of the Department of Industry or by writing to the Central Statistical Office Press and Information Service, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ.

Thursday, 12 May

Hong Kong representation

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether Hong Kong would be separately represented at the next round of talks within Gatt on the multi-fibre agreements, or whether the Hong Kong delegation would sit as part of the United Kingdom delegation.

Mr Meacher said that the UK had acceded to Gatt on behalf of Hong Kong and was responsible for Hong Kong's Gatt rights and obligations.

According to the usual practice, a member of the UK delegation in Geneva would speak for Hong Kong at these talks.

Footwear retail trade

John Garrett (Norwich South) asked for the average gross profit margin in the footwear retail trade; and how this compared with the average for all retailing.

Mr Fraser pointed out that information given to the Price Commission in pursuance of their obligations under the Counter Inflation Act was confidential to them. However, he understood that the gross margins of retail footwear outlets varied to a great extent, but were on average in the order of 40 per cent. This compared with an average of 31.6 per cent for non-food retail outlets in the year ending December 1976.

Friday, 13 May

Fraser and Borthwick Ltd

David Lambie (Central Ayrshire) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what indication he had had from Mr H. B. Dawes, of Messrs Mann, Judd, Gordon and Co, appointed Official Receiver in the case of Fraser and Borthwick Ltd of Irvine on 17 February 1976 of the likely date of settlement of claims of former employees; and if he would make a statement.

Mr Clinton Davis said that Mr H. B. Dawes, chartered accountant, was the receiver appointed on 17 February 1976 by the debenture holder of Fraser and Borthwick Ltd. He was in possession of the assets and he was required to pay the preferential and debenture holders' claims. Mr Dawes was doing all he could to resolve the preferential claims, including those of employees.

English wines

John Wakeham (Maldon) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he was satisfied with the marketing arrangements for English wines to help promote the tourist industry; and whether he would make a statement.

Mr Meacher said that the promotion of English food and drink, including wine, was one of the aims of the 'Taste of England' campaign sponsored by the English Tourist Board which had the statutory responsibility to encourage tourism in England.

Sperm oil products

Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked the Secretary of State for Trade which sperm oil products were not separately distinguished in the overseas trade statistics.

Mr Meacher said that his answer of 25 April had given details of those sperm oil products which were separately recorded. If there were any other imports of products, or residues of the refinement of sperm oil, these would fall under the broad residual headings in SITC(R) 431.1 (Oils, animal or vegetable, boiled, oxidised, dehydrated, sulphurised, blown or polymerised) or 431.3 (Acid oils, fatty acids and solid residues from the treatment of fatty substances), where they were not separately distinguished.

Access and Barclay cards

Michael Brotherton (Louth) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what regard would be paid in considering applications for price increases as to whether firms had chosen to pay part of their employees' remuneration in the form of guaranteed expenditure on Access and Barclay cards.

Mr Fraser replied that the Price Commission was responsible for examining notifications of intended price increases to ensure that the increases complied with the Price Code. The commission was required to refer to the Secretary of State for Employment for his determination as to whether increases in remuneration exceeded the overall pay guide lines.

'T & I' subscriptions and sales

Subscriptions and sales inquiries about Trade and Industry should be directed to HMSO at any of the following addresses: 49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6HB; 13a Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3AR; Brazennose Street, Manchester M60 8AS; 258 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HE; 41 The Hayes, Cardiff CF1 1JW; Wine Street, Bristol BS1 2BQ; 80 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JY, or through any bookseller.

Imports of knitted garments

Jim Marshall (Leicester South) asked for the quantity of imports, by volume, in 1974, 1975 and 1976 from Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan for knitted garments in categories, tariff headings 60.04 and 60.05, in a comparable form to the quota figures in the MFA and allied agreements; and for the respective quota levels for knitwear imports from those countries that operated in 1975 and 1976, and will operate in 1977.

Jim Marshall (Leicester South) asked for the quantity of imports, by volume, in 1975 and 1976 from Romania for knitted garments in categories, tariff headings 60.03, 60.04 and 60.05, in a comparable form to the quota figures in the MFA; and the respective quota levels for those goods for 1976 and 1977.

Mr Meacher gave the information below:

				Imports				Quotas		
Country	Tariff heading	Brief description of statistical heading	Unit of quantity	1974	1975	1976	Brief description of quota heading	1975	1976	1977
Hong Kong	ex 60.04	Knitted shirts	Thousand	9,201	12,485	8,047	Knitted shirts, T shirts, under-vests singlets etc (vests and singlets count as half a unit in 1977)	11,527	11,585	11,473
		Knitted undergarments other than shirts	Tonnes	1,300	934	977	Knitted undergarments other than shirts, T shirts, under-vests, singlets etc and men's and boys' drawers and briefs	733	763	802
	ex 60.05	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, etc (including infants garments)	Thousand	15,921	21,764	18,064	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, etc (excluding infants garments)	17,585	17,673	17,761
		Other knitted outer garments	Tonnes	1,831	2,741	2,629	Other knitted outer garments and infants garments	1,821	1,850	1,924
South Korea	ex 60.04	Knitted shirts	Thousand	859	1,615	880	Knitted shirts, T shirts, under-vests, singlets etc	No quota	1,708	1,995
	ex 60.05	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, etc (including infants garments)	Thousand	10,958	13,536	11,456	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans etc	No quota	11,860	11,919
		Other knitted outer garments	Tonnes	124	459	478	Other knitted outer garments	No quota	300	321
Taiwan	ex 60.04	Knitted shirts	Thousand	3,022	3,582	943	Shirts and sports shirts (including T shirts)	2,378	2,484	2,575
		Knitted undergarments other than shirts, tights and panti-hose	Tonnes	39	39	37	Knitted undergarments other than shirts and sports shirts, tights and panti-hose (and drawers and briefs in 1977)	134	190	240
	ex 60.05	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans etc (including infants garments)	Thousand	14,891	18,054	7,885	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans etc	15,653	15,731	15,810
		Other knitted outer garments	Tonnes	327	695	142	Other knitted outer garments	348	366	390
Romania	ex 60.03	Stockings, socks etc	Thousand pairs				Stockings, socks etc (excluding women's stockings of synthetic fibres)		350	525
	ex 60.04	Knitted shirts	Thousand		1,283	1,507	Knitted shirts, T shirts vests, singlets etc		1,600	1,859
		Knitted undergarments other than shirts, tights, panti-hose, pyjamas and nightdresses	Thousand		2,170	1,905	Knitted undergarments other than shirts, vests, tights, panti-hose, pyjamas and nightdresses		2,900	3,215
	ex 60.05	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans etc (including infants garments)	Thousand		448	673	Jerseys, pullovers cardigans, etc		900	1,026
		Other knitted outer garments	Tonnes		78	57	Other knitted outer garments		105	112

Note: The statistical headings given above correspond as closely as possible to the quota headings, but in some instances are not exactly identical.

European community news

Britain's regional problems need high European priority – Alan Williams

Britain could not contemplate any loss of control over its regional policy, Alan Williams, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, told the North of England Development Council's regional policy conference in Newcastle on 13 May.

Mr Williams also said that Britain's regional problems would still need high priority even if the European community were enlarged as more Mediterranean countries joined.

The community was currently reviewing the European regional development fund and its approach to regional policy. Alan Williams said, 'I was very glad to have the opportunity to discuss the future of the fund with commissioner Giolitti and with director-general Mathijsen, during their recent visit to this country.'

Mr Williams said he had stressed to them that the British regional problem was of a different scale and type than that which was experienced elsewhere in the community. For many of the UK's European partners the problem was to introduce industry for the first time to rural communities. In Britain the problem was far more difficult. The UK had existing communities, existing industrial areas, in which the old industries were in a process of continuous decline in terms of the numbers they employed. Even where they were modernising, as in the case of steel, the modernisation which was essential for the survival of the industry in itself often meant redundancy.

'We have had to face the loss of 450,000 jobs in the assisted areas in the last decade,' he pointed out. 'If it were not for the regional policy that has been operated throughout this period, unemployment in the assisted areas alone would be about a third of a million worse now that it actually is! Because of the scale of the problem which we have to cope with, I believe I was able to make it clear to the commissioner and to the director general, that we in Britain could not contemplate any loss of control over our own regional policy.'

With over 40 per cent of the UK's working population and their families living in the assisted areas, decisions determining the future level of industrial activity in those areas were essentially matters for the political control of the British government. Mr Williams stressed that he had made it clear that with the present level of unemployment, and with the present range of industrial difficulties that the UK faced in assisted areas he could not accept that any case could be made out for a reduction in that part of the European regional development fund which was spent in the UK.

'I would say to the director-general that we are grateful for the help that has already been given by the fund to the northern region and to the other regions of Britain,' he added. In the north £12 million had been granted to local and other public authorities for infrastructure projects, an enormous programme of government advance factories had been launched, the biggest programme ever, and this had been substantially financed by money provided by the European fund.

Within a few years the European community might be further enlarged as more Mediterranean countries joined the community. They too would have their industrial problems. They were lagging behind in the process of industrialisation. Nevertheless, even when they had joined the community, Britain's regional problems would still need high priority if the UK were to overcome the long-term regional imbalance. There must be a sustained regional policy. The UK's regional problem would in no way be diminished by the fact that other countries joined the community who themselves also had problems of industrialisation.

EIN policy formulated in Brussels

A policy for future action in European co-ordinated research in data communication and teleinformatics was formulated at the recent meeting in Brussels of the management committee of the informatics network (EIN) project. It also decided to develop a preliminary X25 interface to the existing EIN network, financed from the common fund. Within the signatory countries it decided to promote the idea of co-ordinating networking research activities in Europe and to publicise the use of the facilities and expertise available through the present EIN project for experimental and development activities.

The European informatics network, which started working in May 1976, links five leading computer centres at Milan, Zurich, Paris, London and Ispra (N. Italy). It is the first general purpose international network to be funded by governments. It is financed by the signatories of the COST (Co-operation Europeene dans la domaine de la recherche scientific et technique) 11 Agreement, who are now France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia and Euratom. The Commission is in charge of its common fund.

The centres have been testing the connection of their computers to the communications system and developing software of increasing sophistication. Work on the system is well advanced and a specification has been agreed for virtual terminals. Methods of co-operation are being perfected and a network control centre is being developed.

Nineteen European countries form the COST group, which was set up in April 1970; they have a list of some 50 co-operative projects, any or all of which each member state may join. The European informatics network is the eleventh project on the list and one of the first to enter its implementation phase.

Commission refers Irish fishing restrictions to European court

Coastal fishing restrictions imposed by the Irish government are to be referred to the European court of justice by the commission. The commission is also seeking an interim injunction from the court which would require the immediate removal of the restrictions while the court is reaching a decision.

Restrictions on fishing were imposed by the Irish government last month prohibiting fishing by vessels over 110 ft and over 1,100 bhp. The dispute was precipated by the recent arrest and prosecution by the Irish authorities of nine Dutch fishing vessels.

Summit briefing in London

David Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, hosted a working breakfast for EEC colleagues in London on 10 May.

The meeting provided an opportunity for Dr Owen to brief representatives of EEC countries, who had not participated in the Downing Street summit on 8 May (see *Trade and Industry* 13 May page 279) on the summit discussions.

Present at the meeting were the Danish Foreign Minister, Mr Andersen; the Luxembourg Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mr Thorn; the Netherlands State Secretary, Mr Kooijimans; the Irish ambassador to London; Mr Von Den Bloock of Belgium; the French Foreign Minister, Mr De Guiringaud; the Italian Foreign Minister, Mr Forlani; an official of the West German Chancellor's office, Mr Rufus; and Roy Jenkins, president of the EEC commission.

New legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408. Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities.*

Cattle, beef and veal. The *Official Journal* L109, 30 April 1977 contains the texts of the following regulations:

Regulation (EEC) 925/77 amending regulation (EEC) 611/77 fixing the specific levy in respect of live bovine animals and beef and veal other than frozen.

Regulation (EEC) 926/77 laying down detailed rules for the granting of a slaughter premium for producers of bovine animals during the 1977/78 marketing year.

Regulation (EEC) 927/77 laying down detailed rules of application for the granting of a premium for the birth of calves for a further period of 12 months.

Regulation (EEC) 928/77 laying down special rules for the application of accession compensatory amounts with a view to preventing deflections of trade in beef and veal.

Regulation (EEC) 929/77 amending regulation (EEC) 1896/73 on detailed rules for the application of intervention measures on the market in beef and veal.

Regulation (EEC) 930/77 fixing the buying-in prices for intervention on the market in beef applicable from 2 May 1977.

Regulation (EEC) 931/77 derogating from regulation (EEC) 3376/75 as regards the calculation of the amount of the reduction of import charges for beef and veal products from the African, Caribbean and Pacific states for the period beginning 2 May 1977.

Regulation (EEC) 932/77 fixing the amounts by which import charges on beef and veal originating the African, Caribbean and Pacific states are to be reduced.

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 954/77 amending regulation (EEC) 349/73 on the sale at reduced prices of intervention butter for direct consumption as concentrated butter (*Official Journal* L113, 5 May 1977).

Oils, fats and oilseeds. Regulation (EEC) 955/77 on the putting up for sale of olive-residue oil held by the Italian intervention agency (*Official Journal* L113, 5 May 1977).

New EEC documents

This list of EEC documents was deposited in the House of Commons during the week ended 4 May (commission reference numbers, where appropriate, are given in parentheses). The documents are available for consultation at the European Communities Commission Information Office at 20 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QQ.

EEC draft instruments

R/860/77 (COM(77)133)
Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 557/76 as regards the exchange rate to be applied, in the agricultural sector, for the Danish kroner.

R/964/77 (COM(77)120)
VAT own resources: Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC, EURATOM, ECSC) implementing in respect of VAT own resources the Decision of 21 April 1970 on the replacement of financial contributions from Member States by the Communities' own resources.

R/967/77 (COM(77)129)
Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending for the third time Regulation (EEC) 2133/74 laying down general rules for the description and presentation of wines and grape musts.

S/647/77 (COM(77)134)
Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the application of the provisions of the Financial Protocol concluded with Malta.

S/655/77 (COM(77)136)
Proposal for a Council Regulation on the conclusion of the agreement for the amendment of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation on the application of the rules on Community transit and on the entry into force of Decision 1/77 of the Joint Committee set up under the said Agreement.

R/975/77 (COM(77)137)
Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on a number of agricultural products.

S/656/77 (COM(77)138)
Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) 471/76 in respect of the period of suspension of the application of the condition on prices governing the importation into the Community of fresh lemons originating in certain Mediterranean countries; Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 471/76 suspending application of the condition on prices governing the importation into the Community of fresh lemons originating in various Mediterranean countries.

EEC information

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The EEC Information Unit helps firms of all types and sizes by answering general questions about EEC membership and by guiding them where necessary to more specialised information sources.
New customers are always welcome, particularly firms new to EEC questions.
The unit's address is: EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET. Tel. 01-215 4301 (six lines).

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry.* For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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Commission announces new grants to steel industry

The commission has announced three grants totalling £1,093,040 to alleviate redundancies in the British steel industry. Details are as follows:

Duport Steel Works Ltd: Closure of seven open hearth furnaces at the Llanelli works, affecting 480 men, of whom 275 will be redundant and 205 men re-trained and redeployed within the company. Closure of seven open hearth furnaces and, by 1979, the whole works at Briton Ferry. This will affect 1,050 men. There are no opportunities for redeployment within Duport Steel. Total cost of readaptation scheme over £2,000,000. Contribution by the commission under article 56 of the European Coal and Steel Community Treaty, for redundancy aid: over £800,000.

British Steel Corporation at Workington: Final closure of the electric arc furnaces following the closure of the Bessemer plant in July 1974. There were 211 jobs lost. Total cost of readaptation aids, £96,150. ECSC contribution, on the same terms as above, £48,095.

British Steel Corporation at Rotherham, South Yorkshire: Closure of two small blast furnaces, first built in 1905, at the Aldwarke/Parkgate Works, affecting 292 jobs, of which 227 are to be redeployed within BSC, 40 outside the steel industry and 25 are to receive early retirement benefits. Total cost of this scheme, £112,800. Contribution from ECSC, article 56 as above, £45,040.

Latest UK allocations from regional fund

Details of contributions totalling £13.5 million towards the cost of projects in the UK to be made from the EEC regional development fund were announced by the commission on 12 May.

These are the second 1977 allocations from the fund and relate to five industrial projects and 191 infrastructure projects which are detailed below.

£000

	Industrial projects	Infrastructure projects	Total
North region	3,524	1,629	5,153
North west	—	1,100	1,100
Yorkshire and Humberside	—	393	393
East Midlands	—	244	244
South west	—	170	170
Total England	3,524	3,536	7,060
Northern Ireland	1,816	1,058	2,874
Scotland	—	818	818
Wales	—	2,708	2,708
Total UK	5,340	8,120	13,460

This latest allocation brings the total fund contribution to UK projects approved in 1977 to £18.2 million, and since the inception of the fund in 1975, to £113.3 million. This is allocated as follows:

England	Fund contributions £000
Northern	31,237
North west	10,933
Yorkshire and Humberside	4,036
East Midlands	747
West Midlands	14
South west	1,744
Total England	48,711
Northern Ireland	17,847
Scotland	29,491
Wales	17,271
Total UK	113,320

The new allocation by the commission includes contributions totalling £3.5 million towards the cost of national aids to three industrial projects in England set out in the list below. The money from the industrial projects will not be passed on to the individual businesses concerned but will be retained by the government and used to go ahead with a greater total of regional investment than would otherwise have been possible.

Industrial projects: Northern region

Projects: 3 Fund contribution: £3,524,533

Location/company	Activity
Darlington, Co Durham: Carreras Rothmans Ltd	Cigarette manufacture
Newcastle upon Tyne: Vickers Ltd – Michell Bearings	Bearings manufacture
Shildon, Co Durham: British Rail Engineering	Wagon manufacture and repair

Northern England

Infrastructure projects

Aid is given under a global application to the following projects:

Location	Project
Alnwick – Amble industrial estate	Site preparation, provision of services and roads
Barrow in Furness	Road improvement to divert industrial traffic from town centre
Blyth Valley – Kitty Brewster industrial estate	Provision of roads and services
Blyth Valley – Plessey North Moor and Plessey checks	Improvement to 3km of the A1068
Darlington – Albert Road Bridge	Reconstruction of the deck to full highway standards and improved footpath
Darlington – Allan Street and Nestfield Street	Realignment of roads
Derwentside – Bradley industrial estate	Road construction and associated service to improve access
Derwentside – High Moorsley reservoir and mains, Belmont industrial site	Increase water supplies – provide inlet mains from East Ranidon to reservoir; outlet mains to Carrville, Belmont and Dragonville
Derwentside – Tanfield Lea industrial estate	Provision of sewers, road and drainage facilities
Durham – Belmont sewage disposal	Extension of existing sewage treatment works; provision of pipes and pumping stations
Easington – A1086/B1283 Horden Junction	Construction of a 10m wide carriage way including crawler lane for slow-moving heavy vehicles
Easington – B1283/B1432 Rosemary Lane and Hospital Lane	Widening and realignment of existing carriageways; improvement of the former junctions and provision of footpaths
Easington – B1283 Harwell Plough to Pemberton Arms	Realignment and improvement of the existing carriageway
Easington – B1283 Tuthill Railway Bridge	Reconstruction and widening of the bridge
Gateshead – Green Lane industrial estate	Site preparation and provision of basic services
Gateshead – Norwood Coke Works industrial estate	Site preparation, roads and services
Gateshead – Whinfield phase 2	Site preparation and provision of basic services
Grangetown, Langbaurgh – Balckow Road industrial estate	Provision of access roads and basic services
Hartlepool Docks	Extension of existing deep water berth, removal of mole, construction of sheds for storage
Hexham, Tynedale – Orchard industrial estate	Provision of roads, drainage and other services
Middlesborough	Provision of 10km of piping to increase water supplies
Middlesborough – North-East Ironmasters industrial estate	Removal of slag heap and building up of embankment for industrial purposes
Newcastle – Cranlington new town, road B	Construction of primary distributor road to dual carriageway standards
North Tyneside – Albert Edward docks	Port facilities – provision of quay, paved areas and floodlighting; extension of roll-on/roll-off link-span bridge; improvement of approach road
Penrith – Gilwilly industrial estate	Installation of sewers and provision of site access roads
Peterlee – North-West industrial area	Provision of sewers
Port of Sunderland	New road, incorporating lighting and railway track
Sedgefield – Aycliffe industrial estate, Great Avenue, Howden Road link	Provision of on-site road
Sedgefield – Furnace Pit Service Industry industrial estate	Extension of access road, sewers and services
Sedgefield – Tudhoe Colliery Service industrial estate	Provision of access road, main services, fencing and landscaping
Sedgefield – Spenny Moor western link road	Extension of existing principal road
Sedgefield – Aycliffe Lane, Aycliffe industrial estate	Improvement to C39 road by widening a narrow railway bridge
South Tyneside – Riverside Quay, Tyne Dock	Modernisation and improvement of existing iron ore quay to transform it into a general cargo quay
Sunderland – Armstrong industrial estate	Provision of roads, sewers, power supplies
Sunderland – Crowther industrial estate	Provision of roads, sewers, power supplies
Sunderland – Pattinson South industrial estate	Site preparation
Sunderland – Pattinson North industrial estate	Provision of roads and sewers
Sunderland – Pattinson North industrial estate	Access road construction, stage 2
Sunderland – Pallion West industrial estate	Site preparation, access, services
Sunderland – Doxford Park industrial estate	Road, sewers and services
Sunderland – Washington new town to Hylton Interchange	Construction of 2,800m of dual carriageway
Sunderland – Leechmere East	Provision of roads, footpaths and lighting
Sunderland – North Hylton Road	Levelling of land and the provision of access roads and drainage facilities
Washington new town	Provision of telephone exchange building extension, exchange equipment and new telecommunications lineplant
Wear Valley – Leazes Lane industrial estate	Provision of roads and sewers
Wetherall and Workington	Gas supplies – pipelines, storage, offtake station

Total aid in respect of 46 infrastructure projects (global application) £1,628,722.10

Yorkshire and Humberside

Total aid (all projects) £393,478.50

Infrastructure projects

Aid is given under a global application to the following projects:

Location	Project
Barnsley – Carlton industrial estate, phases 2, 2B, 3, 4, 5A	Provide roads, sewers and services
Barnsley – Platts Common, phase 4	Provide roads and sewers
Bradford – Oldfield treatment plant	Uprating sedimentation tanks; enlarging outlet flow pipework
Bradford – Rockhill Lane, Bierley-Euroway industrial estate	Widening and improvement of access road
Bradford – Canal Road	Provide roads, footways, surface water drainage, power supplies and telephone lines
Bradford – Low Moor	Provision of services
Bridlington – Carnaby industrial estate	Substation and associated mains work
Doncaster – Bentley Moor Lane, Carcroft industrial estate	Widening of road, provide water and gas services
Doncaster – Kirk Sandall	Construction of roads and sewers
Hambleton – Leeming Bar industrial estate	Servicing
Kingston-upon-Hull – River Hull improvement scheme	Raising and strengthening the river banks
Kingston-upon-Hull – Howden Dyke Elm Tree House to south	Improvement of access to industrial wharf
Kingston-upon-Hull – Sutton Fields industrial estate	Construct roads and sewers
Kingston-upon-Hull – West March industrial estate	Road improvement
Kingston-upon-Hull – New Clee industrial estate	Road improvement
Kingston-upon-Hull – Cannon Street	Levelling and grading of land and removal of bridge abutments
Kingston-upon-Hull	Construct sewers and re-lining of old sewers
Kingston-upon-Hull	Improvement of sheds, road widening, demolition of sheds and new accommodation for fish merchants
Kingston-upon-Hull – Sutton Fields industrial estate	Substations and associated mains work
Leeds – Railsfield Mount industrial estate	Construct service road
Leeds – Cross Green industrial estate	Construct service roads
Leeds – Manor Street industrial estate	Construct service roads
Leeds – Knosthorpe Lane	Earthworks and consolidation of land
North Wolds – Carnaby industrial estate, Bridlington	Development of industrial estate services
Rotherham – Canklow Meadows industrial estate	Construct roads, sewers and provide other services
Ryedale – Malton industrial estate	Construct access roads

Location	Project
Scarborough – Stainsacre industrial estate	Site preparation
Wakefield – Dale Lane, North Elmsall; access to Langthwaite Grange industrial estate	Widening and improvement of access road
Wakefield – Langthwaite Grange industrial estate	Provide roads, sewers and surface water balancing reservoir, improvements to beck
Wakefield – Normanton industrial estate	Provide roads, sewers and services
Wakefield – Normanton industrial estate	Substations and associated mains work

Total aid in respect of 31 infrastructure projects (global applications) £393,478.50

North-west England

Total aid (all projects) £1,099,537.80

Infrastructure projects

Aid is given under a global application to the following projects:

Location	Project
Blackburn – Shadsworth industrial estate	Provision of sewage pumping station and rising main
Blackburn – Thomson Street industrial estate	Provision of roads and sewers
Blackburn – Shadsworth industrial estate	Construction of roads and sewers
Burnley – Smallshaw Sidings industrial estate	Provision of access road and services
Chester – Huntington water treatment works	Extension of water treatment works
Ellesmere Port – Little Stanney industrial estate	Provision of roads
Ellesmere Port – Overpool, Central and Westminster areas	Provision of roads and services
Hyndburn – Huncoat industrial estate	Extension of access road and sewers – phase 2
Hyndburn – Altham Lane	Road improvement
Hyndburn – Martholme	Construction of trunk sewer
Hyndburn – Altham industrial estate	Construction of sewers
Knowsley – Kirkby industrial estate	Realign parts of the ring road access route
Lancaster – White Lund industrial estate	Construction of roads and drainage
Liverpool – Orrell Lane	Construction of surface water sewer
Liverpool – Aintree industrial estate	Construction of relief sewer
Liverpool – Larch Lea industrial estate	Construction of foul sewer
Liverpool – Knowsley industrial estate	Site roads
Manchester – Hutchins Street industrial site	Provision of roads, sewers and services
Manchester – Wellock Street industrial area	Provision of roads, sewers and services
Merseyside – Landon Dock and Langton Dock – Liverpool; Bridle Road – Sefton; Jackson – St Helens	Provision of roads, sewers and services on industrial sites
Nelson – Lomeshaye industrial estate	Construction of roads
Neston, Ellesmere Port – Clayhill industrial estate	Provision of roads and sewers
Pendle – Lomeshaye industrial estate	Provision of spur road to M65 and services
Pendle – Lomeshaye industrial estate	Provision of link road from the A56 to the new spur road serving the industrial estate
Runcorn – Astmoor industrial estate	Levelling and site preparation
Salford – Swinton Street industrial estate	Provision of roads, sewers and services
Salford – Lower Broughton industrial estate	Provision of roads, sewers and services
Sefton – Brasenose industrial estate	Road and footway, provision of water, sewerage, gas, electricity and telephone services
Skelmersdale – Pimbo industrial area	Site preparation
Skelmersdale – Gillibrands industrial area	Site preparation, access road, sewers
St Helens – Jackson Street East, Baxters Lane East, Baxters Road West	Provision of roads, sewers and services on three industrial sites
St Helens – Parr Street, Higher Parr Street	Provision of link road between A58/A570
St Helens – Parr Street, Higher Parr Street, (phase 2)	Improvement of the four main road junctions on A58 road
Warrington – Gatesworth Farm industrial estate	Provision of roads, sewers and services
West Lancashire – Burscough Airfield industrial estate	Provision of roads and sewers
Wigan – Chanters industrial estate	Provision of roads, sewers and services
Wirral – Eastham Locks	Improve port facilities – provision of ship-arrester gear at lock entrance
Worsley – Cleggs Lane industrial estate	Provision of roads, sewers and services
Wyre – Larbreck Road	Widening and realignment of road to by-pass the village of Singleton

Total aid in respect of 39 infrastructure projects (global applications) £1,099,537.80

East Midlands

Total aid (all projects) £244,110

Infrastructure projects

Aid is given under a global application to the following projects:

Location	Project
Amber Valley, Derbyshire – Swannick Colliery site	Provide roads and sewers
Amber Valley, Derbyshire – Meadow Lane industrial site	Site preparation, regrading of railway siding, provide access road
Bassetlaw – Plumtree industrial estate	Construct road and sewers
Bolsover, Derbyshire – Clover Nook industrial estate	Provision of roads and services
Chesterfield – Chesterfield trading estate	Site preparation, provide roads and sewers
Chesterfield, Barlow Brook – Sheepbridge industrial estate	River training and bridge works to prevent erosion and secure development

Total aid in repsect of six infrastructure projects £244,110

South-West England

Total aid (all projects) £169,929.90

Infrastructure projects

Aid is given under a global application to the following projects:

Location	Project
Bideford – Nuttabury Railway Bridge	Improvement of access route to industrial estate
Callington, Caradon – Moss Side industrial estate	Construct roads and provide services
Cornwall	Telephone exchange buildings and exchange equipment
Cornwall – Pennygillan industrial estate	Construction of roads and sewers
Ilfracombe, Devon – Mullacott Cross industrial estate	Provide sewerage, drainage, roads, water, gas and electricity
Liskeard, Caradon – Station Road	Access road and services
Pennycross, Plymouth industrial estate	Construct roads and sewers
Plymouth, Belliver industrial estate	Construct roads and sewers
Plymouth, Belliver industrial estate	Provide service road and gas supply
Plympton, Devon – Peacocks Bridge, Newnham Road	Improve access road to industrial estate
South Hams, Devon – Lee Mill industrial estate	Widening and realignment of access road
West Devon – Hatherleigh industrial estate	Construction of access road

Total aid in respect of 12 infrastructure projects £169,929.90

Wales

Total aid (all projects) £2,707,723.50

Infrastructure projects

Aid is given under a global application to the following projects:

Location	Project
Bala, Gwynedd	Bala Lake railway access road – road widening and the provision of passing places to tourist attraction
Brymbo, Wrexham Maelor	Improvements to bend and gradient of access roads
Cardiff	Mardy Road/Rover Way Link – single carriageway from Rover Way to improve access to industrial site
Cardiff	St Mellons – provision of roads, sewers and peripheral road connected to industrial site
Cwm/Beaufort	Provision of new sewer pipes between Marine Colliery, Cwm and Beaufort
Cynon Valley	New sewer Penywaun to Hirwaun to take discharge from Hirwaun industrial estate
Deeside, Alyn and Deeside, Clwyd	Improve surface water drainage, construct 300m dual carriageway spine road and two 300m service roads, laying spine sewer, provide electricity and water supplies on industrial site
Kenfig Hill, Ogwr – Village farm industrial estate	Phases 2 and 3 – extension of 22ha industrial estates, on-site roads and services
Maesteg	Forge industrial estate – extension of 3.5ha, on-site roads and services
Meirionnydd, Gwynedd	Pennal, Aberdyfi Road (A493) – construction of a retaining wall and stabilising main western access to Aberdyfi
Meirionnydd, Gwnyedd	Llanelltyd, Barmouth Road (A496) – essential works to stabilise along cliff face
Meirionnydd and Dwyfor, Gwynedd	Porthmadog service reservoir – Llyn Eiddew Mawr and two related phases of pipeline construction
Monmouth, Gwent	Water abstraction scheme from River Wye, construction of pipe line to Llandenny
Newbridge/Aberbeeg, Gwent	Laying of 5,300m of sewer pipes
Penllergaer, Swansea	Gas supplies to south-west Wales, construct gas pipeline between Dyffryn Clydach and north-west of Swansea
Penllwyngwent industrial estate – Bridgend	Development of 5.7ha of reclaimed land, on-site road, services
Rassau, Gwent	Construct roundabout for access to Rassau industrial site access road
Rhymney	Western Distributor Rhymney – construct new road to provide access to industrial estate
Queensferry, Clwyd	Construct detritors, mechanically raked screens, primary sedimentation tanks, storm tanks, aeration units, final sedimentation tanks and sludge digestion equipment
Saltney Riverside industrial estate, Clwyd	Provide spine road on industrial estate and access from adjacent trunk road
Treorchy	Abergorky Sidings industrial estate – provision of 425m of access road, a bridge over river and spine road on estate and provision of sewers
Uskmouth, Newport	Supplying electricity, uprating 275kV switchgear

Total aid in respect of 22 infractructure projects £2,707,723.50

Scotland

Total aid (all projects) £818,449

Infractructure projects

Aid is given under a global application to the following projects:

Location	Project
Burghmuir	Access and service roads, provision of water and sewerage facilities, introduction of gas mains supply
Dumfries – Heathhall industrial estate	Access road
Dundee – Gourdie industrial estate	Carriageway to provide access road
Dundee – Baldovie industrial estate (Phase 1)	Carriageway to provide access road
Dundee – Baldovie industrial estate (Phase 2)	Carriageway to provide access road
Dundee – Baldovie industrial estate (Phase 3)	Carriageway to provide access road
Edinburgh – Peffermill industrial site	Drainage and water supply
Falkirk – West Mains industrial estate	Access road, provision of water and drainage services

Location	Project
Falkirk – Bankside industrial estate	Improved access road, provision of water and drainage services
Hardengreen – Nivensknowe and Sherwood industrial estates	Provision of access road, water and drainage
Hamilton – Allanshaw industrial estate	Provide access road, mains water supply and drainage service
Lerwick	Purchase and installation of larger capacity crane
Livingston, West Lothian – Brucefield industrial estate	Ground preparation at Bankton Road to enable provision of water and drainage service
Livingston – Brucefield industrial estate	Drainage and water supply
Livingston – Deans North industrial estate	Roundabout and access road
Livingston – Deans West industrial estate	Foul and surface water outfall sewers
Montrose – Forties Road industrial estate (Phase 1)	Carriageway and footpaths
Newton Stewart – Station Road site	Access road, drainage and water supply
Stranraer – Blackparks industrial area	Roads, drainage, water and sewerage
Westfield industrial estate, Cumbernauld	Access roads and provision of water and sewage facilities

Total aid in respect of 20 infrastructure projects £818,449

Northern Ireland

Industrial projects

Total aid (all projects) £2,873,155.50

Project	Amount
Belfast – Ford Motor Co Ltd: the expansion of the Ford Motor Co undertaking; production of variable venturi carburettors	£1,210,846.00
Belfast – Hughes Tool Co Ltd; the expansion of the Hughes Tool Co; manufacture of drill bits for oil rigs and coal and other mining	£605,118.50
Total (all industry projects)	£1,815,964,50

Infrastructure projects

Aid is given under a global application to the following projects:

Location	Project
Antrim, Ballymena, Milltown	Sewage scheme to provide sludge holding tanks
Ballymacoss, Knockmore (Lisburn)	Water scheme
Banbridge, Co Down	Construction of 1.5km of dual carriageway and 4km of single carriageway to by-pass the town of Banbridge
Banbridge, Co Down	Construction of 1.5km of dual carriageway and 0.5km of single carriageway to by-pass Loughbrickland
Belfast	Modernisation and improvement of cargo handling facilities and construction of harbour road linking to public road network
Campsie, Londonderry	Reconstruction of 0.7km of road to single 7.3m carriageway standard
Carrickfergus	Water scheme – Micro-strainer for South Woodburn
Cookstown	Provide trunk sewer
Coleraine	Extend existing water treatment plant
Coleraine	Provide centrifuge at Coleraine sewage disposal works
Lisburn	Water scheme, reactivate boreholes in Ballymacross, Knockmore industrial estate
Larne	Sewage disposal works
Mullinaskeagh, Ballymena	Water supply to the hill farming area of Glenaan
Portadown	Sewage scheme at the new Ballynacor sewage works
Warrenpoint	Sewage works from Warrenpoint and Rostrevor

Total aid in respect of 15 infrastructure projects £1,057,191

Choosing a business partner elsewhere in the community

The commission of the European communities set up the business co-operation centre to encourage co-operation between firms in different member states wishing to increase competitiveness and respond to the opportunities opened up by access to the community's markets. Co-operation is defined as pooling one or more activities of partner firms: for example, in research and development, supplies, production, marketing and sales and management.

A firm seeking the centre's help will be asked to provide certain information about itself, and to define exactly what type of partner and what type of co-operation it wants. All the information supplied, and any inquiries received, are treated as strictly confidential, and no names are revealed without the agreement of all parties. The centre will search its files for a suitable partner, and if the application cannot be matched with an offer already registered, will, if the firm agrees, circulate a summary of the firm's requirements, with no names mentioned, to the 'correspondents' which it has in every country of the community.

It is as one of the centre's correspondents in this country that we reproduce the latest batch of requests for co-operation. Readers wishing to obtain further information should write direct to the centre at the following address, quoting the reference number of the request(s) in which they are interested: Business Co-operation Centre, rue Archimede 17, B-1040 Brussels. The centre makes no charge for its services.

BRE/4412/839
Italian management consultancy company operating in the industrial sector, with a staff of 25 full-time employees, seeks a co-operation partner for the reciprocal exchange and integration of services offered to the respective industrial clients. The Italian firm would be prepared to study in conjunction with the partner business training courses adapted to the European market.
Languages: English and French.

BRE/4486/314
French limited company manufacturing prefabricated tubular scaffolding, facades and guard-rails, with workshops for metal working, mechanics and welding, with a turnover of FF11.2 million (of which 45 per cent are exports) and 80 employees seeks British partners whose products are destined for civil engineering and construction firms with a view to a reciprocal exchange of those products and their sales. The French firm would be able, if needed, to carry out manufacture or assembly/erecting of the partners' products.
Languages: French, English.

BRE/4451/483
French limited company producing in a very modern factory in central France, low-density heat-shrinkable polyethylene for small and medium-sized packaging (79 per cent of turnover) and low-density polyethylene tubing for the dry-cleaning and laundry industries (13 per cent) with a turnover of FF12 million and 30 employees, with customers throughout France, offers a majority participation to either a firm in the food/drink sector (brewery or dairy) or a paper group.
Languages: French.

BRE/4520/328.8
Dutch company (subsidiary of larger Dutch group) producing stainless-steel needle valves for the chemical industry, cryogenic valves and fittings, LP gas valves and fittings, with 200 people employed, 12 million guilders turnover, seeks manufacturer of comparable size of either other specialist high-quality valves and fittings; or complementary parts or products for the same range of customers (chemical, cryogenic, LP gas industries, eg measuring and control devices, high quality filters). The type of co-operation sought is for reciprocal complementing of sales programme.
Languages: Dutch, German, French, English.

BRE/4503/46
Italian limited company engaged for over 50 years in the sector of treatment (anti-rotting) of wood used for railway sleepers, telegraph poles, etc, with 130 employees, seeks a British partner of same or larger size. The Italian firm would like to diversify its own activities by creating, with the partner, a joint venture in the partner's country to utilise a machine, which it possesses, as well as the related technology, for the production of cellulose fibre vases for flower cultivation. The partner should have in his own country an adequate sales organisation.
Languages: Italian, English.

Proposed new fertiliser regulations

Proposals have been issued for new regulations to control the labelling and composition of fertilisers.

The main purpose of the proposed regulations would be to give effect to EEC directive 76/116 on the approximation of the laws of member states relating to fertilisers; to incorporate those aspects of current UK legislation for which the community has not elaborated rules; and to bring within the scope of the regulations liming materials previously covered by the lime scheme 1966 but not subject to the requirements of the existing fertiliser legislation.

It is proposed that the regulations would come into operation on 1 January 1978, for EEC fertilisers and on 1 June 1978, for other fertilisers. Copies of the proposals may be obtained from Fertilisers and Feedingstuffs Branch, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, R607, Eagle House, 90-96 Cannon Street, London EC4N 6HT, tel. 01-623 4266 ext. 280, or from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, Chesser House, Gorgie Road, Edinburgh EH11 3AW, tel. 031-443 4020.

Overseas trade news

The hunt is on for the export expert

A competition to find the country's export expert has been launched by the Institute of Export. The winner will receive a cash prize of £500.

Arranged by the institute on behalf of the sponsors of Export Year, the competition will test exporters' knowledge of documentation, insurance, transportation and finance, as well as basic general knowledge, which combine to make a professional exporter. The aim is to demonstrate the scope of knowledge and expertise needed to be a successful exporter.

Application forms with an eliminating questionnaire are being circulated to Export Year companies, and to colleges and polytechnics who offer the foundation course in overseas trade. The closing date for completed applications is 15 July. Heats will be organised in six regions and the winning regional contestants will each receive £100.

The competition is open to one member from any company registered with the Export Year office of the British Overseas Trade Board, and to two students from every college and polytechnic offering the foundation course.

Hong Kong visitors

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, with David Newbigging, chairman of Jardine Matheson and Co Ltd, who led a group of Hong Kong businessmen visiting the UK last week. On the left is Mr C. H. Tung, chairman of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association and director of Island Navigation Co Ltd, one of the major Hong Kong shipowners taking part in the visit. On the right is Daniel Koo of Shui-Hing, one of Hong Kong's major department stores, who led a group of store owners and buyers.

Export prospects in Korea

Fifty leading Scottish exporters attended a meeting arranged by the Export Office for Scotland of the Scottish Economic Planning Department in Glasgow on 12 May, to receive up-to-date information and advice on the trading opportunities in the Republic of Korea.

They were addressed by Geoffrey Nichols, chairman of the Korea trade advisory group to the British Overseas Trade Board and chairman of Rotaprint Ltd; Peter Godwin, a member of the Korea trade advisory group, deputy director, Lazard Bros and Co Ltd, and director of the Korea Merchant Banking Corporation; and Ralph Griffiths, second secretary (commercial) at the British embassy in Seoul.

Mr Nichols gave a businessman's view of Korean economic development and prospects and examined the potential of the Korean market for UK exports. Mr Godwin, who has recently spent a year in the Republic of Korea setting up that country's first merchant bank, gave practical guidance on the Korean banking and monetary systems, while Mr Griffiths discussed Korea's fourth five-year development plan (1977-81), identified product areas offering the best prospects for British exports and provided general guidance on doing business in Korea.

Seminar on Korean market . . .

A Seminar on 'Korea – the Ten Billion Dollar Market' is being organised by the Confederation of British Industry and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 22 June in the CBI Council Chamber.

The chairman will be Geoffrey Nichols, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board's Korea trade advisory group and Rotaprint and guest speakers will include Mr R. G. Tallboys, commercial counsellor in the British embassy in Seoul as well as leading bankers and industrialists engaged in the Korean market.

For further details of the programme please contact Miss B. V. Orders, Overseas Directorate, CBI, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9LP, tel. 01-930 6711.

. . . and Westminster's first visit

A British joint venture to Japan in January next year is being linked with a first-time visit to the Republic of Korea. The City of Westminster Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the venture for British businessmen to Internepcon Japan exhibition and conference in Tokyo from 25 to 28 January and when the formal programme ends there will be a week allowed for follow-up business calls, or a four-day excursion to the Republic of Korea.

Participation is open to all companies whose products or services are of UK manufacture or origin and there is a government travel grant of £450 per person for up to two people manning stands during the exhibition. Categories for display at the exhibition range from automatic test equipment, through microcircuit production equipment, to wire stripping machines and tools. The last date for application is 19 August.

Details, including information about the side trip to Korea, are available from the chamber's international trade secretary, Ian Hutchison, tel. 01-734 2851.

London mission to Far East

A trade mission to Japan and Hong Kong is being organised by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry from 7 to 26 November. Twelve days will be spent in Japan and five days in Hong Kong.

The mission, the chamber says, will provide an excellent opportunity to visit, assess and sell to two of the most valuable markets in the Far East.

Further information and application forms for the mission are available from Diane Wright, International Division, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB, tel. 01-248 4444 ext. 336.

Scatter mission to New York

With the support of the British Overseas Trade Board, the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is sponsoring a scatter mission to the United States, with New York as its starting point, from 28 November to 7 December 1977.

Mission members only need spend one working morning in New York (29 November) and two-thirds of the official mission period anywhere in the United States, in order to qualify for the government subsidy. Closing date for applications is 21 June.

Further details can be obtained from Barbara Hallamore, tel. 01-248 4444, ext. 34.

Los Angeles mission in UK

Members of a mission from the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce were entertained at a reception hosted by the North American advisory group of the British Overseas Trade Board at Trinity House on 3 May. The guests were welcomed by Lord Redmayne, chairman of the advisory group, and Lady Redmayne.

Other guests included officials from the Departments of Trade and Industry, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, advisory group members, and representatives of companies which have sponsored the 'Focus on Britain' series on Los Angeles television.

BFEC mission to Canada and US

Vice-chairman of the British Food Export Council Paul Amos will lead a scatter mission to Canada and the United States of America in July.

The party of 16 will start the trip in Vancouver on 11 July and spend at least seven days in north America. There will be a briefing at the British consulate, a visit to a department store chain to look at its retail organisation and at a new store opening as well as other arrangements now being made.

As is usual with a scatter mission, participants may make their own commercial arrangements once they arrive in Canada.

Tayside to South Africa

Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce and Industry is sponsoring and organising its sixth outward trade mission to South Africa from 22 October to 5 November of this year. The basic itinerary will be Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town. Individual itineraries can be tailored to include other cities if participants wish.

Full details can be obtained from Miss Linda Dodds, Assistant Secretary, Export Promotion, Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Panmure Street, Dundee, tel. Dundee 22122 telex 76243.

Appointment to Crown Agents board

The Minister for Overseas Development, Mrs Judith Hart, has appointed Mr S. A. W. Eburne, managing director of the Crown Agents, to a vacant place on the board of Crown Agents.

Mr Eburne was appointed director of Finance of the Crown Agents in June 1975, and managing director in November 1976. Before joining the Crown Agents, he was employed by Morgan Grenfell from 1946 to 1975, for the last eight years of that period as a managing director.

Changes at West India Committee

Sir George Bishop, chairman of Booker McConnell Ltd, was appointed president of the West India Committee, whose trade committee is the British Overseas Trade Board West Indies advisory group, at the committee's annual general meeting on 12 May. He succeeds Lord Campbell of Eskan who had been president since 1957.

In his address to the meeting, West India Committee chairman Mr J. F. P. Tate referred to the improved services to be offered to members. It was intended, he said, to provide both UK and overseas members with better opportunities for meeting individuals and government representatives and to improve information services through the publication of a monthly newsletter which would probably be known as *Insight*.

Mr Tate also mentioned a number of structural changes recommended by the development committee which would be implemented in due course. These included a reduction in the numbers of the executive and the replacing of the treasurers by a finance and staffing committee.

Hints to business men booklets

Revised editions of the booklets on China, Ethiopia, and Canada have been published in the *Hints to business men* series. British business men who intend visiting these countries on export business can obtain copies of the booklets from Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Room D05, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7146, or any regional office of the Department of Industry.

Advertisements are accepted for all

Liverpool export dynamics conference attracts 250

An all-day export dynamics conference organised by the British Overseas Trade Board attracted over 250 industrialists and shop floor representatives in Liverpool on 12 May. In the photograph are, left to right, Lord Limerick, president, Association of British Chambers of Commerce and BOTB member, Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, the Duke of Kent, vice-chairman of BOTB, Sir Frederick Catherwood, chairman of BOTB, and Brian Redhead, Radio Four's *Today* programme presenter.

booklets in the series which covers over 100 countries. Inquiries about advertising should be addressed to Cheiron Press Ltd, 8/10 Parkway, London NW1 7AD, tel. 01-267 1285.

BOTB wall map available

A new edition of the British Overseas Trade Board's export wall map is now available and is being issued to users of government export services by export offices of the Department of Industry's regional offices.

The map shows British diplomatic service posts and British trade correspondents throughout the world. Details of services offered by the board, its publications and contact points within the UK are given. Overall figures for British exports to most overseas countries in 1976 are listed.

First Poole-Cherbourg symposium

Nearly 50 French industrialists and businessmen from the Normandy area and some 120 of their counterparts from Dorset attended a symposium held at Poole, Dorset and jointly organised by the Dorset Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Cherbourg.

The title of the symposium was 'an interchange of industrial and commercial opportunities'. The Chamber reports that a number of highly promising contacts were made between delegates from the two countries.

Hospital services visitors from S. Africa

Pictured behind the central ambulance control console at the London Ambulance Service HQ are two directors of hospital services from South Africa. The visitors, who toured Britain as guests of the British Overseas Trade Board, spent two weeks being introduced to new and current developments in the health sector, covering both medical and hospital interests.

Notices to importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH. Telephone inquiries should be addressed to the number at the end of the notice.

Amendment to Notice 1610

In annex A the conversion factor relating to tariff headings 62.02, household textiles, and 62.05, other made-up articles, should be m²/kilogramme and not m²/dozen as indicated.

1615: Imports of potatoes other than seed potatoes

Notices to importers 1553, 1565 and 1574 extended the import licensing arrangements for maincrop potatoes as set out in notice to importers 1542. Licences granted under these arrangements are valid to 31 May 1977.

The general provisions of notice to importers 1542, as amended by notice to importers 1574, will continue to apply after that date, and traders should note that the period of validity of licences granted under these arrangements for maincrop potatoes may be further extended until 31 July 1977. The normal seasonal arrangements will apply whereby new potatoes can be imported except during September and October (15 May to 31 October in the case of new potatoes from the eastern area) under the authority of the open general import licence, ie without the need for an individual import licence.

It should also be noted that India has been added to the list of countries from which imports of potatoes are permitted.

Open individual licences, valid until 31 May 1977, and individual import licences, valid until 31 May 1977, but not exhausted by that date, may be returned by traders to Import Licensing Branch for the validity date to be extended to 31 July 1977.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel 01-603 4644 ext. 272 or 379.

1616: Community surveillance of certain iron and steel products

Notice to importers 1397 set out the UK licensing arrangements for goods subject to community surveillance of imports under the general provisions of regulation (EEC) 1025/70 – since repealed and replaced by regulation (EEC) 1439/74. The purpose of this notice is to announce the extension of community surveillance, as a result of the publication in the *Official Journal* of the European Communities dated 5 May 1977 of commission recommendation (77/330/ECSC), to include certain iron and steel products.

On and after 25 May 1977, the following goods consigned to the UK from any non-EEC country may be imported into the UK only under an individual import licence:

Tariff heading	Description of goods
ex 73.01	Haematite pig iron and cast iron
ex 73.01	Phosphoric pig iron and cast iron
ex 73.01	Other pig iron and cast iron
73.08	Iron or steel coils for re-rolling
ex 73.10	Wire rod, of iron or steel, not further worked than hot-rolled or extruded
ex 73.10	Reinforcing bars, of iron or steel, not further worked than hot-rolled or extruded
ex 73.10	Bars *other than reinforcing bars and hollow mining drill steel* and rods *other than wire rod,* of iron or steel, not further worked than hot-rolled or extruded
ex 73.11	Angles, shapes and sections, of iron or steel not further worked than hot-rolled or extruded, *other than sheet piling*
ex 73.12	Hoop and strip, of iron or steel, not further worked than hot-rolled
ex 73.13	'Electrical' sheets and plates, of iron or steel, *other than those with a watt-loss, regardless of thickness of 0.75 watt or less*
ex 73.13	Sheets and plates of iron or steel, not further worked than hot-rolled and of a thickness of *2mm or more*
ex 73.13	Sheets and plates, of iron or steel, not further worked than cold-rolled, of a thickness of *more than 1mm but less than 3mm, other than 'electrical' sheets and plates*
ex 73.13	Sheets and plates, of iron or steel, not further worked than cold-rolled, of a thickness of 1mm or less, *other than 'electrical' sheets and plates*
ex 73.13	Sheets and plates, of iron or steel, zinc-coated or lead-coated, *other than 'electrical' sheets and plates*
ex 73.15	Wire rod, of high carbon steel, not further worked than hot-rolled or extruded
ex 73.15	Bars, rods *other than wire rod,* hollow mining drill steel, angles, shapes and sections, of alloy steel, not further worked than hot-rolled or extruded
ex 73.15	Sheets and plates, of alloy steel, not further worked than cold-rolled and of a thickness of less than 3mm, *other than 'electrical' sheets and plates*

Licences will be valid for three months and will be freely issued upon application on form ILB/A to Import Licensing Branch at the above address. Separate applications must be made in respect of each eight-digit UK overseas trade classification number within the descriptions of products as categorised above.

Quantities should be stated in tonnes and, in addition to the information to be entered on form ILB/A, applications must also specify the date of the contract for the purchase of the products to be imported and the proposed date and place of importation, and should be accompanied by evidence of order. Each application relating to goods to be imported after 1 June 1977 must also be accompanied by a statement in the form of the annex to this notice.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644 ext. 276.

Annex

I/we declare that, to the best of my/our knowledge and belief, the price per tonne of each of the products to which the attached application for an import licence relates, when sold in the country of origin for home consumption, in similar quantities and in the ordinary course of trade and at a similar level of trade to that of the present transaction, was, at the time of shipment, as follows:

I/we am/are aware that the information provided in this application may be used by the Department of Trade in relation to its administration of import policy, including the possible imposition of anti-dumping duties, and that the information may be passed for similar purposes to the Commission of the European Communities.

Date............ Signed ....

Status..............................
(owner, partner, company director or secretary)

Name of company ....

EXPORT YEAR NEWS

5

Export Year is sponsored by:
The Association of British Chambers of Commerce
The British Overseas Trade Board and its Advisory Council
The Committee on Invisible Exports
The Confederation of British Industry
The Institute of Export
The Trades Union Congress

Export Year marches on— by popular demand

Shop floor workers at one of Europe's largest tool manufacturing groups have asked for its Export Year campaign to be extended indefinitely. The Group, James Neill Holdings Ltd, has sales exceeding £25M annually, and employs over 4000 staff in Sheffield, Cannock, Warrington, Wolverhampton and South London.

"Before management had considered what should happen when our own Export Year was due to finish at the end of June, the shop floor said it wanted the scheme to carry on," said Geoff Ward, a director of the company.

"We believe it is generating goodwill and promoting a better atmosphere between shop floor and management, so we are only too pleased to continue it," he told *Export Year News.*

Mr Ward has been responsible for master-minding the Group's campaign. Committees were formed in each manufacturing company, and members went to an exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, where they were able to see competitors' products and to sit and talk with overseas agents.

Whenever export visitors come to a plant, this is announced on a notice board at the entrance, and over a loudspeaker, so that all employees are kept informed of who is visiting the company.

"One of the most important benefits", Mr Ward concluded, "has been the opportunity to involve everyone from top to bottom, and to generate interest in the company's export activities through a medium which is non-controversial."

Symbol of export success

Companies are telling the country that they are taking part in Export Year. The Clifford Covering Company, suppliers of steering wheels and horn pads, featured the target symbol in its national advertising for the launch of the Ford Fiesta, and ATV's Lord Grade included an Export Year message in an extensive press campaign.

Rubery Owen, Metro Cammell and the Lep Group have also indicated their support in striking displays in the national press. Many other companies are using the symbol, or mentioning their participation in Export Year, in advertisements in national and provincial publications.

How Lep can help you move towards your target in Export Year

Part of Lep Group's press advertisement

Finding the Export Year Expert

The Institute of Export is looking for the Export Year Expert. It is arranging, on behalf of the sponsors of Export Year, a national competition to test exporters' knowledge of documentation, insurance, transportation, finance and the basic general knowledge which combine to make a professional exporter.

The competition is open to one member from any company running an Export Year registered with the Export Year Office, and to two students from every college and polytechnic offering the Foundation Course in Overseas Trade.

Heats will be organised in six regions, and the winning regional contestants will each receive £100. The final will be held towards the end of the Year, and the country's Export Year Expert will receive a cheque for £500 and a trophy for his company or college.

Application forms are available from the Export Year Office and the Institute of Export, which is organising the competition subject to sufficient response.

It's the honour...
£500
It's the money!
BLOY ELDRIDGE

NOTICE BOARD

Pin this on your company notice board

Export Year gives Harveys a lift

A precious load for truck operator Don Abrahams at Harveys of Bristol. Every month, Harveys has been organising a special Export Year activity, including presentations on international markets, duty-free trade and export packaging. The company has 600 staff, and sells sherry to over 130 countries.

HARVEYS
BRISTOL CREAM

Send details of your company or organisation's Export Year activities to the Press Officer, Export Year Office, British Overseas Trade Board, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET. tel: 01-215 5773.

"Shop floor suppo
—Jack Jones

"We need more exports in the same way as any football team needs goals. Without the goals, all the defensive work, all the tactics and all the good management, don't amount to much.

"To achieve higher living standards and to get our economy moving forward to provide the jobs and the goods now desperately required, this nation must sell more abroad. That is the only way we can afford our necessary imports and pay for the better pensions, better hospitals, and better schools which we so badly need.

"To sell more abroad we must get the quantity and quality UP and the prices DOWN. And the services must be right, too.

"Therefore, active trade unionists and progressive management in industry should give priority of attention to:

Holiday with a di

Albert Ledger, a senior weaving foreman at J H Fenner & Co, Hull, is off with his wife on a springtime trip to Holland and Germany having won the Export Year competition organised by his company. He is seen here receiving his tickets from Fenner International's deputy chairman, John Cleator

As well as a chance for shopping and sightseeing, the tour will have an Export Year flavour, with visits to the Fenner factory in Germany, the massive Hanover trade fair, and the company's Dutch agents in Rotterdam.

To win the competition, Albert Ledger had to place in order of importance a list of ten

Nationwide sp

BBC Television's Nationwide—a progr renowned for its hard-headed look at r and topical events—is obviously impre the enthusiasm and success of Export Y In a recent programme, it featured the campaigns of three companies—Lucas Dexion and Safe Production Systems— showed how they were benefiting by t part in Export Year.

An opening shot from the first of a series of films o Year shown by BBC Television's Nationwide

ort for more exports is vital"

WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER

1. Getting investment into the manufacture of export goods.
2. Mutually agreeing maximum manpower allocation to export production.
3. Getting the prices of our exports *DOWN* to take advantage of the value of sterling.
4. Making certain that our delivery and service are 'spot on'.
5. Developing aggressive pricing and marketing policies.
6. Involving trade union shop stewards in export consultations and campaigns. The practical 'know-how' of the shop floor can be a big help in dealing with export problems.

"Remember: MORE EXPORTS MEAN MORE REGULAR EMPLOYMENT FOR BRITISH WORKERS."

Jack Jones, Member of the TUC General Council

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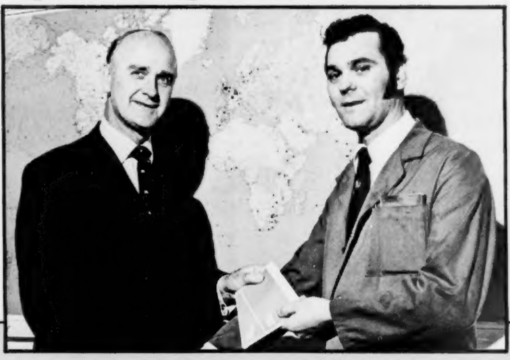
elements vital in export selling, and write a short piece on how the company could improve its export effort.



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Hitting the 2000 target

Over 2300 companies are now taking part in Export Year. Two thirds of the country's leading exporters are represented, including ICI, GEC, Courtaulds, British Petroleum, Hawker Siddeley, Unilever and Vauxhall. Among the nationalised industries taking part are the British Steel Corporation, the National Coal Board and British Rail.

Roy Earnshaw, the Export Year Adviser, announced that the 2000 mark had been reached at a meeting of the British Overseas Trade Advisory Council in London. He told his audience of senior industrial and trade union representatives that he was receiving frequent accounts from companies of how they are finding their efforts worthwhile and rewarding.

EXPORT YEAR NEWS

"What a company might not do on its own, can be done in the context of Export Year. It provides an opportunity for a united, wholehearted effort which I think we should take with both hands."
—Sir Frederick Catherwood,
Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board

Export Year Patrons:
HRH The Duke of Kent
The Rt Hon Edmund Dell MP
Jack Jones
Lord Limerick
Lord Luke
Sir Francis Sandilands
Lord Watkinson

Export Year News,
Editor: Peter Beckingham,
Export Year Office,
British Overseas Trade Board
1 Victoria Street,
London SW1H 0ET
Tel.: 01-215 5773

Hot-pot à la française

French delicacies on a canteen menu were part of a week's campaign by Storey Brothers in Lancaster to get over to its 2000 staff the importance of the French market for the company's p.v.c. and self-adhesive plastics. A noticeable side effect was a dramatic increase in the number of staff who stayed for lunch.

The week was so popular that in May the company will be running a Belgium-Holland promotion.

To back up the efforts of the company's Export Year organiser–Geoff Hannah–a works supervisor has designed an attractive poster to illustrate the problems of exporting. The posters have been printed and put up around the factory.

Residents of Lancaster are also aware of Storey's Export Year—employees are using the company's Export Year car stickers.

Commenting on Export Year, Sam Pearson, the secretary of the company's Transport and General Workers Union branch said:

"This country is fighting for its survival, and we have to lay it on the line that people's jobs depend on British industry getting export orders. Our representatives abroad must have our full backing.

"We have to understand their problems and give them first quality goods on time. That's the way to keep the orders flowing in, and narrow the trade gap which is threatening our survival."

Staff at Storey Brothers enjoy French cuisine during the firm's Export Year campaign

Tom-toms to Nigeria, Eau-de-Cologne to...

Eau-de-Cologne to Cologne, Turkish delight to Istanbul, and bulbs to Holland are the sort of incredible and unusual exports being looked for in competitions organised by *Export Times* and the National Freight Corporation.

Last year the *Export Times* award, which is sponsored by Vladivar Vodka, went to Export Year company Premier Drum for selling tom-toms to Nigeria. Companies who wish to enter this year's competition should send details of their incredible exports to *Export Times,* 60 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1LA.

The National Freight Corporation is also on the lookout for unusual exports, and is offering a case of whisky to the company it judges to have achieved the most novel export of the Year—provided the export involves transport by one of the Corporation's 60 operating companies. Companies who wish to apply should send information to the NFC's chairman, Sir Daniel Pettit, at Argosy House, 215 Great Portland Street, London W1A 3DG.

I've got a little something I'd like to export!
BLOY ELDRIDGE

Staff trace the threads

Works Council members see round the Birmingham Container Base

It's difficult to keep track of the hundreds of millions of self-tapping screws for export, where they are all going, and what they do. But the shop floor staff at GKN's Self-Tapping Screws Division in the Midlands are now kept aware of some of the bigger overseas uses of their products. Display boards have been put up around the factory, illustrating applications—in Bang and Olufsen hi-fi equipment, for example, and Tandberg radios.

Members of the 20-strong Works Council also had the chance to see at first-hand a few of the millions of screws being exported to every part of the world when they visited the Birmingham Container Base.

"Our staff", export manager John Fletcher told *Export Year News,* "certainly know how important our exports are, and have a very clear picture of where we are selling. When I go round the factory there seems a greater interest than ever before in new export orders I have received."

Another GKN company, GKN Mills Building Services Ltd, which sells and hires a variety of scaffolding and formwork equipment, launched its Export Year at the end of February. It is producing a fortnightly export diary for its 2000 staff, who work in branches throughout the country.

"Already employees are showing that they have become more aware of their contribution to our overseas business," said Tony Gadie of the firm's Overseas Division.

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Overseas trade exhibitions

UK firms star in Chicago electric vehicle show

From Harry Hall, British consulate-general, Chicago

Eleven British manufacturers of electric vehicles, batteries and components, constituted one of the largest single national groups participating in the first ever international electric vehicle exposition and conference held anywhere in the world. They were joined with manufacturers, not only from the United States, but also from Australia, Italy, Japan and Switzerland. The exhibition was held in Chicago's McCormick Place lakefront exhibition centre from 26 to 29 April.

The British contingent, which was jointly sponsored by the Westminster Chamber of Commerce and the British Overseas Trade Board, was led by Lord Ironside, President of the Electric Vehicle Association of Great Britain. Lord Ironside was also the keynote speaker at the conference and his talk, which had as its theme the economic factors affecting the development of the industry, the need for future trade and the role of governments, was widely acclaimed by participants.

This important exhibition, which demonstrated various aspects of environmental pollution control, energy saving and new means of transportation systems, came at an opportune time as it followed President Carter's recent warnings about the need to conserve energy and develop new resources.

The show was highlighted by a parade of 65 vehicles including passenger cars, vans, buses, motorcycles, material handling and other vehicles, along Chicago's well-known State Street.

The theme used by the news media was, 'The British Are Not Coming – They Are Here' – and so they were, with perhaps the largest number of vehicles in the parade proudly displaying the Union Jack on their cars, bus and vans. Among the British vehicles on display was Chloride's first full-size battery powered bus to enter passenger service in Britain. Chloride also used the occasion to announce at a press conference that agreement had been reached between its United States subsidiary, Chloride Inc., Tampa, Florida, and Electric Vehicle Associates of Cleveland, Ohio, jointly to produce and sell electric buses and vans in the United States. It also featured its van in the parade and exhibition.

Electraction had on display its three passenger cars including the Rickshaw, Tropicana and Precinct, which also attracted considerable interest. Lucas featured its nine-passenger luxury minibus and Braune of Stroud showed three of its Batricars for use by disabled persons and golfers. Three electric wheelchairs were exhibited by Newton Aids. An aerial platform mounted on an electric vehicle was shown by EPL International Ltd. Three other British firms showing a range of power units and electric vehicle components were: Mawdsley's Ltd, exhibiting a selection of motors; J. M. Harding Ltd displaying carbon brushes, holders, metal contacts and connectors; and Oldham and Sons Ltd showing its traction batteries, battery chargers and a selection of other batteries. Cableform Ltd displayed its electronic and electrical control systems and components for electric vehicles. The publishers of the weekly journal *Electrical Review* were also present with their magazines giving coverage to the British electrical industry. Without exception all British exhibitors achieved excellent results from their participation, some booking orders from their stands, others appointing agents and many receiving a large number of worth-while inquiries.

The exhibition was visited by some 12,000 people from industry, transportation, municipalities, federal government and state agencies, together with purchasing personnel from the armed services, and the occasion afforded these visitors a unique opportunity to see new technological advances in electric vehicles.

Another exhibition is planned for 1978 in Philadelphia.

Quality inquiries for UK electronics in New York

From Patrick Grant, British Trade Development Office, New York

Over 27,000 visitors crowded the aisles of Electro '77 held at the New York Coliseum from 19 to 21 April. This represented a 23 per cent increase in attendance over the previous event held in Boston last year.

Eleven British firms had stands under the auspices of the Electronic Engineering Association and Frank Sherry, head of publicity for the EEA, said that never before had there been so many quality inquiries about British electronics at a United States trade fair.

Avel Lindberg Ltd had 150 inquiries, sold $40,000 worth of transformers and obtained firm inquiries for additional business. Marconi reported a higher number of positive inquiries than last year. Plessey noted particular interest in its SAW filters and oscillators. *Elektor*, the electronic hobbyist magazine, used the opportunity to learn about United States component availability and special market characteristics based on discussions with visitors and visits to nearby electronics retailers. Sinclair received 700 inquiries and visitors were particularly curious about the tiny tv, the digital voltmeter and the new programmable calculators. Greenpar's coaxial connectors generated a good response and the company hopes to return next year to follow up this first effort in the United States market.

Next year the show will return to Boston and will take place from 23 to 25 May.

On the stand of Chloride (from left to right) Lord Ironside, chairman of the Electric Vehicle Association of Great Britain, Dr Brian Edwards, Director of Motive Power Projects Group, Chloride UK, Chip Sturdy, acting consul-general, Chicago, and Lady Ironside.

PROJECT
Spicer
Silent Rider
CHLORIDE

Overseas trade export successes

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

Cementation signs Polish hotels contract

Cementation International Ltd has signed a £24.6 million contract with the Polish foreign trade enterprises, Intraco, for the design, construction and commissioning of two hotels at Gdynia for the Polish Tourist Organisation.

This is the first occasion on which a British company has been involved on a major project of this kind in Poland.

The two hotels will adjoin each other, one being of three-star and the other four-star rating. The former will consist of 11 storeys and 308 guest rooms, and the latter 14 storeys with 307 guest rooms and suites. Each will have its own enclosed swimming pool and underground car park.

Further information: circle 362

Costain wins Cameroun contract

Costain International has been awarded a contract valued at approximately £15 million by Voest Alpine AG of Linz, Austria, for building and civil engineering work for a wood-pulp manufacturing plant in the Republic of Cameroun.

Costain is responsible for the main civil engineering works, involving heavily reinforced concrete foundations for the production equipment and steelwork, road construction, drainage and water distribution, paved and landscaped areas, construction of a pumping station and three river bridges. Building work comprises industrial buildings with piled or mass concrete foundations, reinforced concrete floors, blockwork walls and aluminium roofing and cladding and internal utility services.

Further information: circle 363

Porvair steps up USSR orders

Porvair, manufacturer of poromeric shoe upper material, has signed a four-year contract, worth approximately £8 million, for the supply of Porvair from its Kings Lynn, Norfolk, plant to the USSR.

This trade agreement is the culmination of several years of negotiations between Porvair and V/O Sojuzpushnina, one of the USSR's trade organisations, and follows a number of smaller contracts for consignments of Porvair to be used by the Ministry of Light Industry which is responsible for Soviet shoe manufacture.

Porvair has been supplying substantial contracts on a yearly basis since 1971 and tens of millions of pairs of shoes have been manufactured in the USSR using Porvair.

Further information: circle 364

Lesser's £3m housing contract

A contract has been signed between the National Iranian Oil Co and the Lesser group of companies, for the supply, delivery and erection of Lesser's 'Supalite' housing at Agha Jari, Iran. The contract is worth £3 million.

Scheduled for completion in September 1977 the accommodation will provide 92 bungalows in the south of Iran, for the National Iranian Oil Co's supervisory staff and families. Lesser has now received orders from Iran worth over £6 million in the last year.

Further information: circle 365

Leyland buses for Barbados

A £1 million order for 60 Leyland Viking buses has been agreed between Leyland International and Barbados. The first 40 buses will be shipped out in June 1977 complete with Willowbrook bodies and the remainder will go out as chassis for bodies to be fitted locally in Barbados.

Part of a government modernisation and expansion programme for the Barbados passenger transport fleet, the contract is the first major one secured there by Leyland.

Further information: circle 366

GKN wins steel export order

Following GKN's participation at the British industrial fair in Caracas, Venezuela, GKN (South Wales) has been awarded an order from Simalla Heliacero in Caracas, for 60,000 tonnes of rod required for the production of concrete reinforcements.

Initial contact with the customer was made during the British industrial fair and this was followed by a visit of senior management of Simalla Heliacero to GKN's Castle Rod Mill.

Further information: circle 367

Metal powder plant for Bulgaria

Davy-Loewy's Research and Development Centre, at Bedford, has won a major contract from Technika, the Bulgarian foreign trade organisation. The contract, valued at £186,000, is for a stainless-steel and flame-spraying alloy powder plant.

The contract, which was signed in Sofia, Bulgaria, covers the supply of equipment, the latest powder metallurgy techniques, spares and the training of Bulgarian staff at the Research and Development Centre in Bedford. Ancillary equipment will be produced in Bulgaria to Davy-Loewy specification. The plant, which will have a capacity of over 200 tonnes a year, uses the water-atomisation technique developed by Davy-Loewy.

Further information: circle 368

Bahrain order despatched in seven days

Part of a consignment of lead being supplied by Surrey-based Broderick Structures for delivery to Bahrain being packed ready for air freight from Gatwick. Broderick Structures despatched the consignment of ¾ ton of code 5 lead for radiation shielding at the Bahrain Medical Centre only seven days after receipt of the order.

Further information: circle 369

LANSING BAGNALL

Overseas trade country data

Australia

Vices: temporary protection request. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 2 April 1976, reported a reference to the Department of Manufacturing Industry in Australia requesting temporary protection against the imports of vices (tariff item 82.04.9). That notice indicated that after consideration of the request the department might refer it to the Temporary Assistance Authority for inquiry and report.

It has now been announced that this reference has been sent to the Temporary Assistance Authority and the public hearing will be held on 25 May.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5318. Ref: CRE 67/76

Anti-dumping: high-speed twist drills. An application has been received by the Australian Bureau of Customs from Australian industry for anti-dumping action to be taken against imports of high-speed steel twist drills.

The Australia customs representative in London is being requested to carry out the necessary inquiries to establish normal values for these goods originating in the UK.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref: CRE 684/77

IAC reference on glucose and glucose syrups. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 11 March, reported a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission on the question of providing assistance for the production in Australia of glucose and glucose syrups.

The draft report of the hearing, which was scheduled for 6 May, will be published at the end of May. The final hearing has been arranged for 17 June at 9.30 am in the Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, Kings Avenue, Barton, ACT, at which interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on the report before final recommendations are made.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref: CRE 397/77

Reference on metal-working machinery. Notices in *Trade and Industry*, 18 March 1977 and 8 April 1977, reported references to the Industries Assistance Commission on the question whether assistance should be given to the manufacture in Australia of the following products:

1 Metal working machine tools
2 bench or pedestal drilling machines

It has now been announced that the public hearings into both of these references will be held at Sydney on 18 May and at Melbourne on 31 May 1977.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref: CRE 176/77
CRE 548/77

Draft report on items of electrical equipment. The Industries Assistance Commission has issued a draft report on its inquiry into the question as to whether protection should be given to the production in Australia of (a) regulating, starting and controlling apparatus and (b) other electrical equipment falling within the following tariff items:

a	85.16.1	85.16.9	85.19.2	85.19.42	85.19.43
	85.19.44	85.19.49	85.19.9		
b	85.01.31	85.01.32	85.01.33	85.01.41	85.01.9
	85.02	85.07.2	85.07.9	85.10	85.12.1
	85.18.2	85.19.5	85.22	85.24	85 28
	90.13.4	90.26.3	90.27.2	90.27.3	90.29.9
	98.16.2				

The report has not yet been received by the Department of Trade but the Industries Assistance Commission has sent a copy to all witnesses who gave evidence.

Public hearings to receive submissions on the draft will be held in Canberra on 8 June 1977.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref: CRE 504/75 Pt 13
CRE 504/75 Pt 14

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

Reference on yarns, fabrics and certain textiles. A reference has been sent to the Industries Assistance Commission asking for a report by 4 July 1977 on whether short-term assistance should be given to the production in Australia of:

a wool textiles and other goods falling within the following items of the customs tariff: 50.09.1 : 51.04.1 : 53.06 : 53.07 : 53.10 : 53.11 : 55.09.3 : 56.05.2 : 56.06.2 : 56.07.2 : 56.07.3 : 58.04.9 : 62.01 or 94.04.9.
b Cotton and discontinuous man-made fibre yarns 55.05.912 : 55.05.913 : 55.05.919 : 55.05.929 or 56.05.9.

UK firms or trade associations intending to submit evidence at the public hearings which will take place in Melbourne on 7 June, should advise the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600 Australia, without delay. Evidence may be submitted either through the accredited agent of the firm or trade association concerned, or through the Australian-British Trade Association, 6th Floor, Dorland House, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW1Y 4FW, tel. 01-930 2524, who will represent UK interests if authorised. The association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref: CRE 685/77 (Items A)
CRE 686/77 (Items B)

Belgium

Additives. The *Moniteur Belge* 70, 8 April, published a decree dated 24 January, concerning additives in foodstuffs, detergents, cleaning agents, tobacco, cosmetics and aerosols used for dispensing these products. The decree also includes restrictions on objects permitted to come into contact with foodstuffs.

Copies of this decree (in French) are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Animal feeding stuffs. The *Moniteur Belge* 81, 26 April, published a decree dated 31 March, modifying the decree of 5 March 1976 concerning maximum levels of undesirable products and pesticidal residues permitted in animal feeding stuffs. The decree enters into force on 1 March 1977.

Copies of this decree (in French) are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Bolivia

Prior deposit concessions. As a result of changes to the import deposit scheme the following items are now exempt from the payment of the prior deposit:

1 Goods with a value below US $300 cif port of transit
2 Construction equipment imported by registered construction companies
3 Publicity material and trade samples

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Cayman Islands

Vehicles: duty amendment. By law 5 of 1977, the Cayman Islands authorities have announced that the rate of customs duty on goods under Cayman Islands tariff item number 20.05 (other mechanically propelled vehicles) has been reduced to 27½ per cent *ad valorem.*

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Chile

Exchange rates. The Chilean Central Bank has now established the daily rate of exchange for the period 5 May to 5 June 1977. Copies of the list are available.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5289.

France

Compensation surtax on alcohol. By an administrative decision of 6 April the French authorities reduced the rate of compensation surtax on alcohol and products containing alcohol. The new rates are listed below with the former rates in brackets:

Francs per hectolitre of absolute alcohol	Description
368Frs (383Frs)	On goods falling within heading CCCN 22.09 CI, CIII, CIV, CV
348Frs (363Frs)	On other alcoholic beverages subject to the tax and products not elsewhere listed containing alcohol
228Frs (243Frs)	On perfumes, toilet preparations and medicaments containing alcohol
238Frs (363Frs)	On anhydrous ethyl alcohol
78Frs (93Frs)	On industrial products containing denatured ethyl alcohol (paints, varnishes, dyes, cleaning materials, etc)
157Frs (164Frs)	On vinegar – other than wine vinegar – of more than 8 degrees acetic.

For vinegar – other than wine vinegar – up to 8 degrees acetic the new rate is 11.78Frs per hectolitre of vinegar (formerly 12.30Frs).

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423.

Federal Republic of Germany

Federal Patent Court annual report. The 1976 Annual Report of the Federal Patent Court of the Federal Republic has recently been published. A copy of the report, together with a translation into English, is available for public inspection in the Chancery House Annexe of the Science Reference Library (Holborn Division), Chancery House, Lower Ground Floor, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1AY.

India

Import policy. The government of India has published its import policy for the year April 1977-March 1978.

Under the policy more goods may now be imported under open general licence; import quotas for some items have been increased for established importers; and import restrictions are generally more relaxed. It is felt that this could lead to increased opportunities for imports of industrial raw materials, supplies and equipment of kinds not produced by indigenous industry provided that the demand exists.

Inquiries from British exporters should specify the item(s) in which they are interested, preferably by CCCN number.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 420/7062.

Iraq

Embassy closure. The British embassy in Baghdad will be closed on Sunday, 5 June for the silver jubilee holiday.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5376.

Import duty amendments. The Iraq authorities announced in *Official Gazette* 2577 under decision 246 changes in import duty rates of the following items:

CCCN no.	Description	Value
02.02	Poultry meat	KN 100 fils (formerly KN 200 fils)
04.05	Eggs	Exempt (formerly KN 50 fils)

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 475/7062.

Trade fair. The Iraqi state organisation for capital goods is arranging a trade fair from 30 July to 3 August 1977. Interested manufacturers or suppliers of any of the following should contact Mr M. A. Al-Bassam of the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq, 20 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5JG for further details:

Foot-operated riveting machines
Motor-driven riveting machines
Honing machines
Cylinder boring machines (boring bar)
Bench valve grinder (refacer)
Valve seat grinding kit
Pillar drill
Bandsaw machine accessories
Bandsaw brazing apparatus
Electric bandsaw butt welding machine
Bandsaw blade shear
Sharpening machine
Riveter
Weighing machine
Sanitaryware vichina
Locks, cylinder locks, panel locks, door locks
Fire bricks
Fire clay
Glass sheets
Glass bricks
Acoustic ceiling tiles
Fibre glass
Tyglass
Chromium plated fittings
Malleable pipe fittings
Putty of glass
Flint coat
Textiles dyestuffs
Aerosol insecticide
Fire fighting equipment
Food flavours and essences
Food dyestuffs
Industrial chemicals

Lebanon

Pharmaceutical pricing regulations. *Trade and Industry*, 29 April, published advance information about pricing of pharmaceuticals in the Lebanon.

An unofficial translation of a revised pharmaceutical price calculating schedule has now been received from the British embassy at Beirut and copies are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 475/7062.

Luxembourg

Ice-cream. The Luxembourg *Memorial* A14, 25 March, published a decree dated 7 March 1977, affecting ice-cream. The decree enters into force on 1 May 1977.

Copies of this decree (in French) are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

New Zealand

Tariff amendments: paper and paperboard. The New Zealand government has issued the Customs Tariff (Paper and Paperboard) Amendment Order 1977 which came into force on 4 March 1977. Under this regulation numerous items coming under chapter 48 of the customs tariff, 'Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard', have been amended, replaced or suspended.

British exporters with inquiries should give a detailed description of the goods and quote the CCCN (formerly BTN) number.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

Motor vehicle and farm machinery parts. The New Zealand government has introduced the Motor Vehicle Parts Price Margins Regulations 1977, whereby a limit is imposed on the profit margins taken by importers, wholesalers and retailers of motor vehicle and farm machinery spare parts.

This regulation came into effect on 13 April and remains in force until 3 July.

The government has decided to set up a commission of inquiry to examine all aspects of the spare-parts industry. The commission is required to report by 31 July.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

Senegal

Agency agreements. A decree, issued by the Director of Internal Trade and Prices, stipulates that all agency agreements must be counter-signed by the minister responsible for trade and that the duration of the agreement must not exceed 10 years.

Copies of all existing agency agreements (not signed by the minister) should be sent to the Department of Internal Trade and Prices for the necessary endorsement.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 472/471/473/462.

South Africa

Amendment of safety, etc, standards for tv sets. It was announced by notice 728 in the South African *Government Gazette*, 29 April, that the Minister of Economic Affairs intends to amend the compulsory standard specification for the electrical safety and system compatability of colour and monochrome television receivers.

The purpose of the amendment is to adapt the requirements of the specification with a view to the introduction of portable monochrome receivers and to rationalise certain methods of test.

Any person who wishes to object to the minister's intention to effect this amendment should lodge his objection in writing with the Director General, South African Bureau of Standards, Private Bag X191, Pretoria by 29 June 1977.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5274.

Customs tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 29 April:

R.686 CCCN 59.04.50.20 of polyamide: Specific provision, at a rate of duty of 25 per cent or 90c per kg is made for twine, cordage, ropes and cables, plaited or not, of polyamide fibres or strip.

INDUSTRIAL REBATES

R.687 Item 305.02, No. 27.10: The provisions for a rebate of duty on petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, for use in petrol refining, are amended to full duty.

R.688 Item 306.04, 306.12, 307.01, CCCN 28.11: 1 The provisions for a rebate of duty on – a formaldehyde, for the manufacture of colour, paint, varnish and allied products, b formalin and paraformaldehyde, for the manufacture of textile auxiliaries, and c formaldehyde, for the manufacture of synthetic resins and artificial plastics are withdrawn. 2 The provision for a rebate of duty on paraformaldehyde, for the manufacture of synthetic resins and artificial plastics, is restricted to paraformaldehyde for the manufacture of phenolic resin, butylated urea formaldehyde resin and butylated melamine formaldehyde resin.

GENERAL REBATES

R.689 Item 411.00, CCCN 85.00: 1 The effect of this amendment is that the provision for a rebate of duty on parts for radiotelephonic transmission and reception apparatus classifiable under tariff heading 85.15 is extended to include all parts classifiable under Chapter 85. 2 Provision is also made for a rebate of the full duty on parts for radar apparatus and radio navigational aid apparatus for use in merchant ships or civil aircraft.

DRAWBACKS AND REFUNDS OF DUTY

R.690 Item 518.03, CCCN 44.14, 44.15, 44.19, 44.28, 48.15, 73.14, 73.35, 74.03, 74.15, 83.01, 83.02 and 92.10. Provision is made for a drawback of the full duty on the above goods, used in the manufacture of pianos for export.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Spain

Bleaching plants. In the *State Gazette*, 30 April, the Spanish authorities published approval under the special system of joint assembly of a pro forma resolution for the manufacture of bleaching plants. The parts, components and ancillary material which may have to be imported for inclusion in the Spanish manufacture (which cannot be made locally) will be subject to a reduction of 95 per cent of the corresponding import duty. On application a specific resolution could be approved by the Spanish Directorate of Tariff Policy given a technical and sufficiently detailed description of the parts, components etc, to be imported with the reduced import duty provided the total value of such parts does not exceed 60 per cent of the total industrial cost price. The pro-forma resolution will remain in force until 30 April 1979.

British exporters interested in proposing themselves as potential partners should send details of their equipment to the British Embassy, Commercial Department, Fernando El Santo 16, Madrid 4, who will make local inquiries on their behalf.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Customs tariff modifications. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 25 April, published royal decree 768 and 769/1977 of the Ministry of Commerce, modifying the Spanish customs tariff to read as follows:

CCCN	Description		Import duty
22.09	Ethyl alcohol, undenatured, of a strength less than 80°; spirits, liqueurs and other spiritous beverages; compound alcoholic preparations (concentrated extracts) for the manufacture of beverages:		
A	Undenatured ethyl alcohol of a strength of less than 80° proof	per litre	20 pesetas
B	Cognac and brandy	per litre	50 pesetas
C	Whisky	per litre	40 pesetas
D	Rum and tafia	per litre	45 pesetas
E	Gin	per litre	36 pesetas
F	Liqueurs	per litre	50 pesetas
G	Other spirits for retail sale	per litre	50 pesetas
H	Raw rough spirits or alcohols from distilation to be used in the production of drinks:		
1	Obtained from malt		10%
2	From cane or cane molasses	per litre	45 pesetas
3	Other	per litre	50 pesetas
I	Concentrated alcoholic extracts		13.5%
29.40	Enzymes		
A	Curdle from natural origin (Lab-german, chymosin and rennin)		16%
B	Pepsin of natural origin		16%
C	Other		Free

The above modifications are valid from 25 April 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR: 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Foodstuffs: import regulations. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 2 April, published royal decree 512/1977 approving the Technical and Hygiene Regulations for the manufacture, distribution and marketing of prepared dishes (pre-cooked and cooked). An English translation of this decree is available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Import quota on whisky. The Spanish Ministry of Commerce has invited Spanish importers of whisky to submit import applications. The period for submitting applications is from 4 to 26 May 1977. Other documents to be submitted by the importer with the application are:

EUROPEAN
LINK

Gelders offices throughout Europe, linked by daily direct services, for all door-to-door international freighting requirements.
UK: Birmingham, Bristol, Felixstowe, Glasgow, Hull, Manchester, Northampton.

gelders

Gelders UK Transport Ltd. South Portway Close,
Round Spinney Industrial Estate, Northampton NN3 4RB
Tel: Northampton (0604) 43651 Telex: 311302

Groupage–Full loads–Storage–Distribution

ENCIRCLE TI 496 ON PAGE 371 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

1. The letter of appointment as exclusive representative of the brand. The letter should indicate that the agent is the exclusive representative for two years; the whisky is at least five years old and should be certified by the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in London.
2. Minimum price will be £5.50 per crate.
3. Certification from the Spanish customs showing that the last licences granted to the importer had been cleared through the customs.
4. Importers who are also wine exporters should also present certificates from the customs authorities indicating their exports.

The import licences will be valid up to 31 December 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Syria

Customs duties amendments. The Syrian authorities have announced increases in import duties for the following CCCN tariff nos.:

22.03, 22.04, 22.05, 22.06, 22.07, 22.09

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 475/420.

Trinidad and Tobago

Import licensing. By notice 1 of 1977, the Trinidad and Tobago authorities have issued a reminder to importers that in all cases where goods are subject to import control the import licence must be obtained before the goods are ordered. Such goods must arrive in the country within the period for which the licence is valid. Failure to do so renders the goods subject to forfeiture.

Inquiries from British exporters should specify the products in which they are interested.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Tunisia

Suspension of duties and production tax. The Tunisian *Journal*, 8 to 12 April, has announced the suspension of customs duties and production tax from 1 January to 31 December 1977 on the following items:

BN 01-02 C: Live animals of the bovine species
BN 01-04 B: Live sheep and goats
BN 02-01 B: Meat of bovine animals
BN 02-01 D: Meat of sheep and goats

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 461.

United States

Ban on import of certain exercising devices. The International Trade Commission has determined that there are violations of section 337 of the US Tariff Act of 1930 in the unlicensed importation of

OTAR: help for exporters

Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Services and Promotion Division, Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 can give you directly, or through your Regional Office, up-to-date information on the tariffs and customs regulations of overseas countries, import licensing regulations and restrictions including import quotas; certificate of origin; consular invoices and fees; labelling and marking requirements; foodstuffs, drugs and pharmaceuticals, agency legislation, setting up of a subsidiary company and the imports of samples. It also provides information, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, on health regulations for livestock, meat, animal products and plants and seeds. In short, OTAR can help on almost all legislation which affects the entry of British goods into overseas countries.

Inquiries which concern the countries of more than one sub-section (excluding inquiries involving only EEC countries) should be made to OTAR's co-ordination sub-section on 01-248 5757 extension 452 or 454.

For information on specific countries, phone the number given below.

ring
01-248 5757
ext.

Sub-section A
Co-ordination of EEC inquiries; common customs tariff (CCT); Denmark; France and overseas territories; Greece; Turkey

408	EEC legislation on tariff and non-tariff barriers relative to community trade,
7174	EEC common agricultural policy – aspects affecting exports, Denmark (incl. Faroe Islands and Greenland)
423	France and overseas departments, French overseas territories
439	Greece (incl. Dodecanese Islands), Turkey

Sub-section B
Benelux; Dutch overseas territories; Irish Republic; Italy; Federal Republic of Germany; Eastern Bloc; China

467	Federal Republic of Germany
288	Netherlands, Netherland Antilles, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, St Eustatius, St Martin (Dutch), Saba, Surinam, Yugoslavia
466	Irish Republic, Albania, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, USSR
288	Belgium, Luxembourg
466	Italy

Sub-section C
Efta countries (including colonies), former Portuguese territories N. Africa and Israel

459	Norway, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland
458	Israel, Egypt
460	Portugal, Finland, Iceland, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde Islands, Macao, Principe, Sao Tome, Timor
461	Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria

Sub-section D
South and Central America

476	Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama
474	Argentina, Chile, British Antarctica Territory and Antarctica, Cuba, Haiti, Uruguay, Bolivia, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, Falkland Islands

Sub-section E
Australasia and South East Asia

401	New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, W. Samoa, Chatham Island, Cook Island, Niue Island, Tokelau Isles
468	Australia, Solomon Islands, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Islands (Indian Ocean), Nauru, Papua New Guinea, New Hebrides, Philippines
469	Brunei, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Tonga, Gilbert Islands (incl. Ocean Island, Phoenix Island, Line Island), Tuvalu, Norfolk Island, Pitcairn Island

Sub-section G
Middle and Far East

420	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, India, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, Taiwan, Yemen Arab Republic. Yemen PDR
475	Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia), Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lower Gulf States (Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, United Arab Emirates), Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Sub-section F
North America; Bahamas; West Indies, etc.

7312	Anguilla, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands
455	Canada
456	USA (incl. Alaska, Caroline Island, Guam, Hawaii, Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands), Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Samoa (US), Virgin Islands (US), Wake Island

Sub-section H
Spain and possessions: Mediterranean; Africa; Sri Lanka

462	Spain, Ceuta and Melilla, Andorra
471	Ascension Island, British Indian Ocean Territory, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Sri Lanka, S. Africa (with Lesotho, Swaziland, S.W. Africa and Botswana), Somalia, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Maldive Islands, Malta, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles
472	Burundi, Cameroon, Canary Islands, Central African Empire, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Benin, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Upper Volta, Zaire, Equatorial Guinea
473	The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rhodesia, Sierra Leone, Zambia

CRE	Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)
OTAR	Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

certain exercising devices because they have been made in accordance with claims of US Patent No. 3,743,280 and in their unlicensed sale by the owner, importer, consignee or agent of either and has ordered that they should be excluded from entry into the United States for the term of the patent. Under certain circumstances the articles may be entitled to entry under bond of 350 per cent of their value, free on board, at the foreign port.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Imports of speciality steels under quota. Following the notice which appeared in *Trade and Industry* on 13 May 1977, the following table, derived from statistics made available by the US Customs Service, shows the products which are subject to quotas, the United States quotas on imports from the EEC for the 12 months 14 June 1976 to 13 June 1977, and United States imports of the products concerned from the EEC during this period, as at 6 May 1977:

Pounds weight

Product	US import quotas for 12 months 14 June 1976 to 13 June 1977	US imports during this period as at 6 May 1977
Sheet and strips of stainless steel (item 923.20)	34,082,000	30,398,639
Plates of stainless steel (item 923.21)	9,600,000	6,167,394
Bars of stainless steel (item 923.22)	4,200,000	2,123,334
Wire rods of stainless steel (item 923.23)	14,800,000	Quota filled
Bearing steel (item 923.25)	7,000,000	3,006,805
Alloy tool steel (item 923.26)	6,800,000	Quota filled

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Book matches. The *Federal Register* dated 4 May 1977 published rules by the Consumer Product Safety Commission on the final safety standard for bookmatches. The effective date of the standard is 4 May 1978. A copy of the text is available to British exporters.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Alcohol beverage containers. The *Federal Register* dated 29 April 1977 published details by the Food and Drug Administration amending the use of certain resins as coatings for beverage containers intended only for alcoholic beverages containing less than 8 per cent alcohol. Comments (four copies) by 31 May 1977 to Food and Drug Administration, Room 4-65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857. A copy of the text is available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Glazing materials. The *Federal Register* dated 27 April 1977 published a notice by the Consumer Product Safety Commission giving an advisory opinion concerning a method of certifying that architectural glazing materials conform to the commission's standard. A copy of the text is available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Aerosol containers. The *Federal Register* dated 29 April 1977 published rules proposed by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to indicate on the label a warning that the product contains chlorofluorocarbon propellant which may be harmful. Written comments (five copies) by 31 May 1977 to Consumer Product Safety Commission, 1111, 18th Street, NW, Washington DC 20207. A copy of the text is available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Rhodesian chrome. The Treasury Department has announced a temporary procedure for imports of certain ferrochrome and special steel products which will be effective until 18 June 1977. Entry will be permitted if (1) the Director of Foreign Assets Control receives a certificate from the producer that the products were in shipment or in inventory for shipment to the United States on 18 March; or (2) the producing country certifies to the director that under its laws enforcing the United Nations sanctions against Rhodesia the products do not contain chromium of Rhodesian origin. Declaration certificates are available on application to IS2, DoI, Room 731 Thames House South, SW1, tel. 01-211 3841.

Sugar. President Carter has announced that he has rejected the International Trade Commission recommendations for the imposition of reduced quotas on the importation of sugar into the United States and has instructed the Secretary of Agriculture to institute an income support programme for producers under which supplemental payments will be made when the United States market price for sugar falls below 13.5 cents per lb. These payments would be subject to a maximum of 2 cents per lb. The existing tariff of 1.9 cents per lb and the global quota of 7 million tons remain.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Zaire

Import licensing. The Bank of Zaire has issued information about the importation of essential products. The following goods can now be imported without an import licence:

1. Basic foodstuffs
2. Essential trade goods
3. Pharmaceuticals (excluding cosmetics and toiletries)
4. Raw materials for industry and packing materials
5. Industrial spares

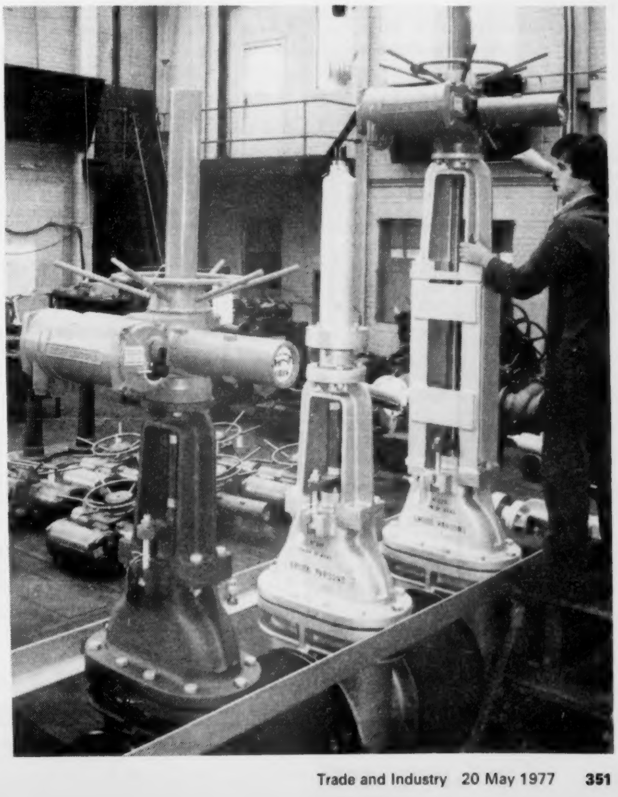
Other goods remain subject to import licensing and applications for the import of goods capable of being produced locally will be carefully examined. A temporary import prohibition has been imposed on a few products.

Banks are to be held responsible for putting imported goods into distribution and import deposits are abolished.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 472/471/473/462.

Valves for NZ power station

Rotork actuators destined for Huntley power station, New Zealand, being installed on Grubb Parsons' 14 in feed water and condensate rising-screw gate valves, at the valve maker's work in Newcastle upon Tyne. Actuator orders for the New Zealand project from several valve makers in the UK, as well as through Rotork agents in New Zealand and Australia, total about £220,000



Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure: Total	Fixed capital expenditure, of which: Manufacturing industry	Fixed capital expenditure, of which: Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Changes in stocks: Total	Changes in stocks, of which: Manufacturing industry	Changes in stocks, of which: Wholesalers	Changes in stocks, of which: Retailers	Balance of payments: Current balance	Balance of payments: Visible balance	Balance of payments: Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1976	1970	£ million	£ million			£ million 18,218	10,396	1,829	1,977	£ million		
1970	100.0	31,644	9,453	2,130	1,799	442	325	68	−14	733	−25	758
1971	101.7	32,505	9,681	1,991	1,930	99	−148	52	22	1,087	280	807
1972	104.3	34,402	9,870	1,739	2,071	39	−145	48	15	131	−702	833
1973	110.3	36,003	10,279	1,872	2,390	1,127	404	102	382	−752	−2,334	1,582
1974	109.8	35,590	10,124	2,024	2,289	602	666	81	−111	−3,380	−5,221	1,841
1975	107.6	35,234	9,991	1,737	1,970	−680	−392	−111	−23	−1,635	−3,195	1,560
1976	108.9	35,290	9,562	1,651	1,898	−8	−4	22	1	−1,423	−3,592	2,169
1975 1st qtr.	109.4	8,988	2,534	471	492	−125	18	−31	−38	−544	−947	403
2nd qtr.	107.2	8,833	2,474	444	498	−267	−105	−54	−66	−295	−655	360
3rd qtr.	106.5	8,724	2,540	416	501	−208	−234	−29	38	−566	−967	401
4th qtr.	107.4	8,689	2,443	406	480	−80	−70	4	43	−230	−626	396
1976 1st qtr.	109.2	8,811	2,460	402	452	25	31	24	12	−80	−538	458
2nd qtr.	108.3	8,730	2,394	408	479	−97	−115	−22	−55	−439	−919	480
3rd qtr.	108.4	8,824	2,392	418	484	−22	4	10	22	−536	−1,148	612
4th qtr.	109.7	8,925	2,316	422	483	86	77	10	22	−368	−987	619
1977 1st qtr.		8,740 pe								−294	−954	660
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	+0.3	+0.6	−3.0	+3.7	+3.9							
on a year earlier	+2.0	+0.9	−5.5	+2.2	−1.4							

	Industrial production: Total all industries	Industrial production: Total manufacturing industries	Personal expenditure: Retail sales	Personal expenditure: Cars: new registrations	Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted): Retail prices	Retail prices: % increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Labour (UK): Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Visible Trade (Volume): Export	Visible Trade (Volume): Import
				monthly averages									On a balance of payments basis	
	at 1970 prices		at 1971 prices										at 1970 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970	1971 15,895	thousands	Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972	thousands		thousands	1970 7,907	1970 7,932
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	106.7	104.2
1972	102.7	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	854.9	3.7	147.3	107.1	116.7
1973	110.3	110.0	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2 6	307.0	122.2	133.8
1974	106.4	108.2	109.9	102 8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.7ø	2.6ø	302.7ø	131.2	136.2
1975	101.3	101.7	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.8	929.0	3.9	150.0ø	125.6	126.4
1976	102.2	103.4	108.1	104.7	157.1	16.5	299.0	219.6	214.5	1,269.8ø	5.4ø	120.4ø	135.9	134.2
1976 1st qtr.	101.8	101.8	107.3	103	149.4	22.5	266.5	206.9	205.5	1,220.3	5.2	116.7	131.5	126.1
2nd qtr.	102.4	103.6	107.6	106	154.9	16.0	292.6	214.4	212.8	1,252.1	5.3	119.4	137.1	134.6
3rd qtr.	101.5	103.5	108.9	97	158.5	13.7	306.8	223.2	218.6	1,305.5	5.5	123.6	134.2	137.9
4th qtr.	103.2	104.5	108.5	113	165.8	15.0	329.9	233.9	220.6	1,316.8ø	5.6ø	. .	140.8	138.1
1977 1st qtr.	104.2 p	105.3 p	105.0	104	174.1	16.5	341.5 p	248.0 p	224.6 p	1,330.2	5.6		140.3	142.0
1976 Apr.	102.4	103.3	108.8	116	153.5	18.9	286.3	211.5	210.1	1,241.8	5.3	122.5	135.6	132.1
May	104.5	106.4	106.8	110	155.2	15.4	292.0	214.8	211.7	1,253.3	5.3	120.0	137.2	134.7
June	100.5	101.1	107.3	91	156.0	13.8	299.6	217.0	216.6	1,261.1	5.3	115.7	138.5	137.1
July	101.4	103.6	108.8	91	156.3	12.9	302.0	219.8	219.0	1,288.9	5.5	118.6	130.4	139.4
Aug.	100.6	102.5	108.9	115	158.5	13.8	304.0	223.4	219.1	1,308.8	5.6	126.2	134.9	133.7
Sept.	102.4	104.4	108.9	86	160.6	14.3	314.4	226.3	219.2	1,318.7	5.6	125.9	137.3	140.4
Oct.	102.8	104.8	108.1	109	163.5	14.7	327.7	230.0	219.5	1,307.9	5.5	124.5	140.8	140.6
Nov.	103.4	104.9	109.2	119	165.8	15.0	331.8	234.6	220.7	. .	. .	. .	138.1	140.1
Dec.	103.3	103.9	108.3	111	168.0	15.1	330.2	237.2	221.5	1,325.7 e	5.6 e	. .	143.3	133.6
1977 Jan.	104.3	105.0	106.7	93	172.4	16.6	337.8	244.9	223.8	1,338.2	5.7	. .	140.6	153.6
Feb.	104.0	105.2	105.7	118	174.1	16.2	339.5	248.2	224.8	1,331.4	5.6	150.5	138.0	133.7
Mar.	104.3 p	105.7 p	103.1	102	175.8	16.7	347.2 p	250.8 p	225.1 p	1,321.1	5.6	157.3	142.2	138.8
Apr.			104.0 p	105 p			349.1 p	255.1 p		1,322.6 p	5.6 p	158.5 p	148.4	138.1
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+1.0	−0.7	−3.7	+0.6	+5.0		+3.6	+5.2	+1.8	−0.1			+1½	−4
a year earlier	+2.3	+3.4	−2.5	+1.9	+16.5		+25.6	+20.2	+9.3	+7.5			+7½	+7½

p Provisional   pe Preliminary estimate   † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100   . . not available   ø Average of available months   e estimate

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Current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments for April

In April 1977 the current account is estimated to have been in surplus by £111 million. The deficit on trade in goods was £109 million, seasonally adjusted, and the balance on services and other transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £220 million.

In the three months February to April 1977 there was a current account surplus of £126 million compared with a deficit of £565 million in the previous three months.

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Current balance	Visible balance: Trade in goods	Invisible balance: Services and other current transactions
1975	−1,635	−3,195	+1,560
1976	−1,423	−3,592	+2,169
1976 1st quarter	−80	−538	+458
2nd quarter	−439	−919	+480
3rd quarter	−536	−1,148	+612
4th quarter	−368	−987	+619
1977 1st quarter	−294	−954	+660 a
1976 November	−249	−455	+206 b
December	−7	−214	+207 b
1977 January	−309	−529	+220 a
February	+34	−186	+220 a
March	−19	−239	+220 a
April	+111	−109	+220 a
1976 Nov-Jan	−565	−1,198	+633 a
Feb-Apr 1977	+126	−534	+660 a

a These figures are projections and are subject to revision as information becomes available.

b One-third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate. Monthly figures of invisibles are not available.

Visible trade

Summary (figures on a balance of payments basis) (see tables 1, 3 and 12)

In April, there was a deficit on visible trade of £109 million, seasonally adjusted, a substantial reduction even on the comparatively small deficits of £186 million and £239 million in February and March, respectively. The reduced deficit in April resulted from an increase of £138 million in exports compared with a rise of £8 million in imports, which included a sharp fall in imports of ships from the high March level.

In terms of volume, exports rose 4½ per cent in April while imports fell by ½ per cent. The export unit value index was little changed in April while the import unit value index was up by 1 per cent. The terms of trade fell by 1 per cent.

In the three months ended April the visible trade deficit was £534 million, compared with £1,198 million in the previous three months. The reduction in the deficit of £664 million owed much to the improvement of £426 million in the balance of trade in oil. Total exports were valued at £7,547 million, 4½ per cent higher than in the previous three months, with a rise of 1½ per cent in volume. Total imports, however, at £8,081 million, fell by 4 per cent, with volume down by a similar amount. The fall in value of £356 million included a reduction in imports of crude oil of £290 million. The terms of trade index rose by ½ per cent between the three-monthly periods, the result of a 3½ per cent rise in the export unit value index and a 3 per cent increase in the import value index.

Exports (overseas trade statistics basis)

Area analysis (see table 4). The value of exports to the developed countries in aggregate was 2½ per cent higher in the three months ended April than in the previous three months. Over this period shipments to the EEC rose by 3½ per cent, while there was a 5½ per cent fall in the value of goods despatched to the rest of western Europe, partly reflecting erratic trade in diamonds. Exports to north America, which had been broadly flat since August, were up in both March and April and were 12 per cent higher on the three months comparison. Deliveries to the other developed countries increased by 3 per cent. Exports to the developing countries as a whole rose by 6½ per cent, with a rise of 11 per cent in shipments to the oil-exporting countries. The value of goods despatched to the centrally-planned economies rose by 12 per cent.

Commodity analysis (see tables 5, 6 and 7). In the three months ended April the value of exports of manufactured goods was 4 per cent higher than in the previous three months, with a rise of 1½ per cent in the volume of deliveries. Within this broad category, the value of exports of machinery and transport equipment rose by 3 per cent. The value of machinery exports, however, was ½ per cent lower, with a fall of 3 per cent in volume. Deliveries of road motor vehicles rose by 7 per cent in value in the latest three months while shipments of other transport equipment were 4 per cent lower. The value of chemicals exported increased by 5 per cent, almost entirely the result of higher prices, while the value of exports of metals rose by 4 per cent, the main contribution coming from iron and steel. The value of textile exports rose by 2½ per cent, but volume fell by 1½ per cent. The value of other manufactured goods despatched increased by 7 per cent, with volume up by 5 per cent. The value of exports of non-manufactures in total rose by 7½ per cent. There was a fall of 1½ per cent in the value of food, beverages and tobacco exported, and an increase of 4 per cent in the value of shipments of basic materials. Exports of fuels rose by 20 per cent in value in the latest three months, which wholly reflected a continued sharp rise in crude oil exports to £212 million, about double the level of the previous three months.

Imports (overseas trade statistics basis)

Commodity analysis (see tables 8, 10 and 11). In the three months ended April, the value of imports of food, beverages and tobacco rose by 5 per cent compared with the three months November to February, increased prices, particularly for coffee, tea and cocoa, being the major factor. Fuel imports fell by 24 per cent in value and 26 per cent in volume from the high November-January level, which included the effects of stockbuilding before the Opec price rise. The falls reflected mainly increased production of North Sea oil, and also the run-down of stocks. Imports of industrial materials in total were 4 per cent lower in value, a 6 per cent fall in volume outweighing higher prices. Within the group, the value of imports of basic materials was down by 10 per cent (with volume 12 per cent down). Imports of semi-manufactures

TABLE 1 Visible trade on balance of payments basis

Seasonally adjusted values £ million

	Exports (fob)	Imports (fob)	Visible balance
1975	19,379	22,574	−3,195
1976	25,294	28,886	−3,592
1975 1st quarter	4,644	5,591	−947
2nd quarter	4,611	5,266	−655
3rd quarter	4,808	5,775	−967
4th quarter	5,316	5,942	−626
1976 1st quarter	5,611	6,149	−538
2nd quarter	6,209	7,128	−919
3rd quarter	6,400	7,548	−1,148
4th quarter	7,074	8,061	−987
1977 1st quarter r	7,392	8,346	−954
1976 November	2,320	2,775	−455
December	2,448	2,662	−214
1977 January r	2,471	3.000	−529
February r	2,432	2,618	−186
March r	2,489	2,728	−239
April p	2,627	2,736	−109
1976 Nov-Jan	7,239	8,437	−1,198
Feb-Apr 1977	7,547	8,081	−534
Percentage change*	+4½	−4	

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

* Percentage change: latest three months on previous three months.

(other than chemicals) fell 2½ per cent in value and 5½ per cent in volume, including a sharp fall in imports of iron and steel. In contrast, the value of chemical imports rose by 1½ per cent, with small rises in both price and volume. Imports of finished manufactures in aggregate were 1 per cent lower in value terms, the result of lower volumes. Within this category, machinery imports were little changed in value. The value of imports of road motor vehicles rose by 10 per cent and of other transport equipment by 22 per cent. For these two groups combined import volume was up by 11 per cent. Arrivals of other finished manufactures were 5 per cent lower in value largely due to lower volume.

Area analysis (see table 9). The value of imports from the developed countries fell by 1 per cent in the three months ended April compared with the previous three months. Imports from the rest of western Europe fell by 8 per cent, partly reflecting both erratic movements in trade in diamonds and lower arrivals of basic materials, and imports from the EEC were down by 1 per cent. Arrivals from the other developed countries rose by 7½ per cent, reflecting higher imports from Japan, and imports from north America were up by 3 per cent. Among the developing countries, the 23 per cent fall in imports from the oil exporting countries reflected the reduced imports of oil, while deliveries from the other developing countries were 1 per cent lower. Imports from the centrally planned economies fell by 14 per cent.

Invisibles

The latest estimate of invisibles (see table 2) relates to the fourth quarter of 1976 when credits on services and other current transactions were £3,742 million and debits £3,123 million, giving a surplus of £619 million for the quarter. The surplus is projected to be running currently at £220 million a month.

Notes

1 Trade figures on a balance of payments basis. The seasonally adjusted import and export figures on a balance of payments basis are obtained by making various adjustments to the seasonally adjusted figures derived from those recorded in the monthly *Overseas Trade Statistics*. These adjustments are summarised in table 13. Some are valuation adjustments; the principal of these is the deduction from the import figure of freight and insurance costs. The other adjustments relate to coverage. Included under this heading are adjustments to bring in items not in the Trade Statistics (for example on the import side ships built and delivered abroad direct to UK owners) and to remove items which are in the Trade Statistics (mainly returned goods and goods for processing and repair), where no change of ownership is involved. In addition adjustments are made from time to time to the level of exports to take account of variations in the quality of recording as revealed by the regular monitoring of the accuracy of the export figures (as described in an article in *Trade and Industry*, 15 February 1973). All these adjustments are described in greater detail in the annual *'Pink Book' United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1965-75* (table 4 and pages 59-62) and in an article in the issue of *Trade and Industry* dated 4 November 1970.

Since firm figures for the adjustments do not become available as quickly as the recorded trade statistics, the figures for imports and

TABLE 2 Invisibles¶

Seasonally adjusted values £ million

		Credits	Debits	Invisible balance
1975		11,090	9,530	+1,560
1976		13,597	11,428	+2,169
1975	1st quarter	2,658	2,255	+403
	2nd quarter	2,733	2,373	+360
	3rd quarter	2,786	2,385	+401
	4th quarter	2,913	2,517	+396
1976	1st quarter	3,057	2,599	+458
	2nd quarter	3,247	2,767	+480
	3rd quarter	3,551	2,939	+612
	4th quarter	3,742	3,123	+619
1977	January			+220*
	February			+220*
	March			+220*
	April			+220*

¶ See note 6.

* These figures are projections and are subject to revision as the relevant statistical information becomes available.

TABLE 3 Export and import unit value and volume index numbers on a balance of payments basis

Indices 1970 = 100

		Unit values (not seasonally adjusted)			Volume (seasonally adjusted)	
		Exports	Imports	Terms of trade †	Exports	Imports
1975		198.5	245.0	81.0	125.6	126.4
1976		240.6	299.4	80.4	135.9	134.2
1975	1st quarter	184.9	239.8	77.1	128.8	127.9
	2nd quarter	193.4	240.4	80.4	122.6	122.0
	3rd quarter	202.2	246.4	82.1	121.3	128.3
	4th quarter	210.1	259.7	80.9	129.6	127.4
1976	1st quarter	219.0	268.3	81.6	131.5	126.1
	2nd quarter	234.2	291.7	80.3	137.1	134.6
	3rd quarter	247.4	307.3	80.5	134.2	137.9
	4th quarter	261.7	330.0	79.3	140.8	138.1
1977	1st quarter r	274.5	339.4	80.9	140.3	142.0
1976	November	261.8	332.7	78.7	138.1	140.1
	December	266.9	335.4	79.6	143.3	133.6
1977	January	272.7	335.1	81.4	140.6	153.6
	February	273.9	338.9	80.8	138.0	133.7
	March r	276.8	344.2	80.4	142.2	138.8
	April p	277.4	348.1	79.7	148.4	138.1
1976	Nov-Jan	267.1	334.4	79.9	140.7	142.4
	Feb-Apr 1977	276.0	343.7	80.3	142.9	136.9
	Percentage change	+3½	+3	+½	+1½	−4

† Export Unit Value Index as a percentage of the import unit value index.
p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates.

TABLE 4 Exports: areas¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values £ million fob

			Developed countries				Developing countries		
		Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1976		25,778	9,174	4,275	3,098	1,943	3,143	3,362	727
1976	2nd quarter	6,310	2,246	1,053	773	472	751	807	183
	3rd quarter	6,500	2,342	1,061	797	490	786	837	182
	4th quarter	7,228	2,628	1,247	837	481	911	909	187
1977	1st quarter r	7,562	2,763	1,297	886	537	997	887	201
1977	February r	2,506	895	432	282	179	337	297	69
	March r	2,522	943	382	330	169	344	295	66
	April p	2,734	970	455	314	175	350	351	73
1976	November-January	7,402	2,709	1,342	826	507	931	921	185
	February-April 1977	7,762	2,808	1,268	926	522	1,031	943	208
	Percentage change	+5	+3½	−5½	+12	+3	+11	+2½	+12

¶ See Note 2. r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

exports on a balance of payments basis in the latest months are at this stage preliminary estimates and liable to revision.

2 The adjustments described at note 1 are made only for the monthly totals of exports and imports (table 1) and the monthly figures of trade in petroleum and petroleum products (table 12). They are not estimated for the area and other commodity analysis of trade. The values of total trade and the main components of exports and imports in tables 4 to 11 are available only on the *Overseas Trade Statistics* basis. Whereas comment on total trade and trade in petroleum and petroleum products relates to figures for exports and imports on a balance of payments basis, analysis of the area and other commodity patterns of trade are based on the figures on the *Overseas Trade Statistics* basis in tables 4 to 11. The main components of trade are seasonally adjusted independently from the totals and in consequence do not always add exactly to the seasonally adjusted totals.

3 Visible balance. The visible balance is the difference between the import and export figures on a balance of payments basis obtained as described in note 1 above. Since, as noted above, the import and export figures for the most recent months are provisional, it follows that the monthly visible balances for these months are also provisional and liable to revision.

The monthly figures for the visible balance are published only on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since the balance is the difference of two large and variable figures, it is itself liable to fluctuation and undue significance should not be attached to a single month's figure; it is more useful to consider the total balance over three or more months.

4 Trends. Even after allowing for seasonal influences, the sequence of monthly figures is usually too variable to give a satisfactory indication of the underlying trend. While it is possible to construct elaborate estimates of trend these cannot be applied to the most recent months, and a simple method of giving some guidance on underlying movements in the most recent past is to take the sum of three months. Apart from occasions when major disturbances distort the flows of trade, the three-monthly total gives a quite good short-term guide and has the merit of simplicity.

5 Timing. The figures for exports relate to documents received in the Statistical Office of HM Customs and Excise up to a few days before the end of the calendar month. On average export documents arrive at Customs Statistical Office within a fortnight of the shipment of goods, so that the documents relate to goods passing through the ports in the month ending about the middle of the calendar month to which they are attributed. The figures for imports relate to documents received at the Customs Statistical Office up to the third working day after the end of the month. Importers are usually required to present their documents before they can obtain customs clearance and remove the goods. Thus the import statistics correspond closely to movements through the ports during the calendar month to which they are attributed.

6 Invisibles (services and other current transactions) covers the following items: Government services and transfer payments; all other services including sea and air transport, travel and insurance, banking and other financial transactions; overseas income in the form of interest, profits and dividends; and private transfers. The monthly figures are inevitably less precise than those for visible trade for several reasons; the data are not available on a

TABLE 5 **Exports: commodity classes**¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values

£ million fob

					Manufactures									
						Machinery and transport equipment								
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
1976	25,778	1,694	776	1,255	21,347	10,126	7,062	2,224	840	3,047	2,347	934	4,892	707
1976 2nd quarter	6,310	406	182	286	5,229	2,514	1,741	553	203	733	575	223	1,228	170
3rd quarter	6,500	419	197	333	5,414	2,530	1,753	561	200	783	635	240	1,204	178
4th quarter	7,228	472	232	395	5,913	2,735	1,910	601	246	860	653	267	1,397	183
1977 1st quarter r	7,562	504	251	479	6,169	2,764	1,951	623	203	899	684	287	1,527	193
1977 February r	2,506	170	90	161	2,026	903	632	210	53	295	224	95	505	63
March r	2,522	160	78	166	2,090	947	650	224	83	310	233	96	485	69
April p	2,734	158	81	186	2,209	998	676	210	79	313	256	95	587	92
1976 Nov-Jan	7,402	496	238	428	6,074	2,765	1,968	603	224	875	683	280	1,472	171
Feb-Apr 1977	7,762	488	249	512	6,325	2,848	1,958	644	216	917	712	286	1,577	224
Percentage change	+5	−1½	+4	+20	+4	+3	−½	+7	−4	+5	+4	+2½	+7	+31

* Not seasonally adjusted. ¶ See Note 2. p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

TABLE 6 **Exports: volume indices** Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
Weights	1,000	64	34	26	844	410	276	134	97	119	49	169
1976	139.4	156	122	108	140	133	135	130	171	108	124	168
1976 2nd quarter	140.3	151	119	104	141	135	135	130	167	110	122	173
3rd quarter	137.3	152	118	114	139	130	132	124	171	114	126	161
4th quarter	144.6	161	131	121	144	134	134	136	180	111	130	176
1977 1st quarter r	144.3	165	138	134	144	129	131	126	176	118	132	184
1977 February	143.1	170	149	133	141	126	127	119	175	113	131	181
March r	145.0	158	126	137	147	133	131	143	180	122	130	177
April p	155.4	151	128	152	154	137	135	128	183	134	131	213
1976 November-January	144.6	163	134	128	145	132	136	129	178	117	133	181
February-April 1977	147.8	160	134	140	147	132	131	130	179	123	131	191
Percentage change	+2	−2½	—	+10	+1½	—	−3	+½	+½	+5½	−1½	+5

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

monthly basis (some are reported quarterly, others less frequently) and the figures are, therefore, essentially projections based on past trends; revisions, affecting particularly gross credits and debits, but often the balance as well, are more frequent; and the gross figures themselves include a number of items which are appropriately recorded as the net profit or surplus arising on the transactions.

7 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products. Trade in petroleum and petroleum products (table 12) accounts for almost all the trade in fuels, section 3 of SITC(R) which is included in tables 5 and 8. Import and export figures are shown for crude oil and for the rest of the division which includes petroleum partly refined for further refining and petroleum products (eg motor spirit, lamp oil and white spirit, distillate fuels, residual fuel oils, lubricating oils and greases, etc).

The figures of value and tonnage of crude oil imports in table 12 are based on reports to HM Customs and Excise and have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels total in table 8. These figures cannot be directly compared with the monthly import tonnages originating from the Department of Energy which are published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* and the *Digest of Energy Statistics*, as the latter are based on reports received directly from the oil industry and are unadjusted. Over longer periods the differences between the two sources are largely resolved.

For imports, the average value of crude oil per ton has been obtained by dividing the value of crude oil imports by the tonnage and will reflect not only changes in price but also changes in the commodity mix of imports due, for example, to differing qualities of crude oil.

The figures of value of crude oil exports have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the fuels total in table 5. These figures include oil which has been re-exported.

8 Unit value and volume indices. A brief description of the way in which the index numbers on a balance of payments basis are calculated was published in the article giving unit value and volume index numbers for March 1971 in *Trade and Industry* of 26 May 1971. An article was published in *Trade and Industry* on 11 October 1973 introducing the series of import and export unit value and volume indices with 1970 = 100. The purpose of the index numbers is to measure the changes in price and volume of our imports and exports. Index numbers can be constructed in various ways, and the series used here are of the fixed base type. Thus, the unit value indices measure changes in 'price' of a fixed selection of trade headings (although in practice it is not specific prices which are measured but the average price of all the varying transactions taking place each month in the selected headings, reflecting different kinds of goods covered by each heading and different markets or sources of supply).

Correspondingly, the volume indices measure, for the same selection of trade headings, what the change in the value of trade would be assuming no changes in the prices charged from those in the base year. Because the indices are base weighted, they do not take account of the changes in the pattern of trade since the base year, and consequently their product does not precisely account for the change in the value of trade expressed as an index. In practice, though, since the composition of trade changes little between consecutive months, the product of the changes in the indices will often approximate to the change in the value of trade between one month and the next. A full methodological article about the 1970-based series of indices was published in the April 1975 issue of *Economic Trends*. Adjustments have been made to the import volume index to

TABLE 7 Exports: unit value indices Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

						Manufactures							
							Machinery and transport equipment						
		Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
1976		240.1	213	240	553	234	245	250	234	238	228	202	221
1976	2nd quarter	234.3	211	229	530	229	242	248	230	232	216	196	213
	3rd quarter	247.4	220	249	553	242	254	258	246	245	233	207	226
	4th quarter	261.7	229	262	608	256	269	273	260	259	247	222	239
1977	1st quarter	274.4	238	276	643	268	284	288	275	272	255	235	249
1977	February	273.8	237	274	645	268	282	287	271	271	256	236	249
	March	276.7	242	282	658	270	285	290	276	276	257	238	249
	April p	277.2	248	287	636	271	285	286	282	278	259	238	250
1976	November-January	267.1	232	266	622	261	275	279	267	265	251	226	243
	February-April 1977	275.9	242	281	646	270	284	288	276	275	257	238	250
	Percentage change	+3½	+4½	+5½	+4	+3	+3	+3	+3½	+4	+2½	+5	+2½

p Provisional estimates

TABLE 8 Imports: commodity classes¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values

£ million cif

					Industrial materials				Finished manufactures						
										Machinery and transport equipment†					
		Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery†	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Other	Miscellaneous
1976		31,213	4,993	5,652	11,296	3,223	2,000	6,073	8,860	6,389	4,637	1,398	354	2,471	412
1976	2nd quarter	7,678	1,250	1,346	2,735	760	486	1,489	2,151	1,572	1,180	325	99	579	117
	3rd quarter	8,110	1,266	1,493	2,904	856	515	1,532	2,344	1,716	1,255	392	64	628	107
	4th quarter	8,744	1,406	1,511	3,239	929	568	1,743	2,543	1,831	1,293	416	96	713	92
1977	1st quarter r	8,954	1,490	1,390	3,376	988	629	1,758	2,666	1,897	1,289	474	124	769	105
1977	February r	2,853	477	390	1,104	319	205	580	859	612	418	152	38	246	32
	March r	2,875	512	447	1,024	306	200	518	875	634	436	167	46	241	36
	April p	3,010	511	423	1,154	280	207	667	845	607	434	159	27	238	38
1976	Nov-Jan	9,121	1,427	1,648	3,423	1,004	605	1,815	2,600	1,836	1,284	434	91	764	100
	Feb-Apr 1977	8,738	1,499	1,261	3,283	905	613	1,765	2,578	1,853	1,289	478	111	725	106
	Percentage change	−4	+5	−24	−4	−10	+1½	−2½	−1	+1	+½	+10	+22	−5	+6½

* Not seasonally adjusted. ¶ See note 2. r Revised estimates p Provisional estimates. † Includes North Sea production installations.

include North Sea oil production installations, however, no changes have been made to the base-weighted unit value index.

9 Definition of areas. The areas used in tables 4 and 9 comprise the following countries:

EEC – West Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Italy, Denmark and Irish Republic.

Rest of Western Europe – Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Austria, Andorra, Vatican City, Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Spain, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Malta, Continental Shelf (Foreign Part).

North America – USA, Canada, Puerto Rico, Greenland, St Pierre and Miquelon.

Other Developed Countries – Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Africa.

Centrally Planned Economies – Soviet Union, Poland, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, China, North Korea, Outer Mongolia and Vietnam.

Oil Exporting Countries – Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Bahrein, Brunei, Dubai, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria,

TABLE 9 Imports: areas¶ *Overseas Trade Statistics basis*

Seasonally adjusted values

£ million cif

	Total	Developed countries				Developing countries		Centrally planned economies
		EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	
1976	31,213	11,396	4,584	4,219	2,124	4,210	3,514	1,133
1976 2nd quarter	7,678	2,887	1,083	1,023	498	964	869	301
3rd quarter	8,110	2,828	1,231	1,122	578	1,179	912	274
4th quarter	8,744	3,245	1,283	1,191	619	1,135	969	282
1977 1st quarter r	8,954	3,343	1,287	1,268	635	1,027	1,123	325
1977 February r	2,853	1,071	416	443	229	270	357	90
March r	2,875	1,104	382	390	199	366	359	99
April p	3,010	1,147	454	395	249	299	330	90
1976 November-January	9,121	3,355	1,364	1,193	630	1,215	1,060	323
February-April 1977	8,738	3,322	1,252	1,228	678	935	1,046	279
Percentage change	−4	−1	−8	+3	+7½	−23	−1	−14

¶ See note 2. p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

TABLE 10 Imports: volume indices
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment†			
				Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery†	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Other
Weights	1,000	227	105	427	151	60	216	229	166	133	33	63
1976	133.5	101	87	127	93	150	145	196	197	186	241	193
1976 2nd quarter	134.1	101	87	126	92	148	144	193	196	189	244	186
3rd quarter	135.8	103	88	127	95	153	142	202	206	194	251	193
4th quarter	137.8	104	85	132	94	157	151	206	210	196	247	197
1977 1st quarter r	139.6	107	76	135	97	170	152	213	213	194	283	215
1977 February	133.9	103	63	132	93	166	149	205	205	186	276	204
March r	133.4	108	71	122	90	161	134	206	208	191	296	202
April p	139.4	109	68	134	82	171	161	198	198	190	258	199
1976 Nov-Jan	141.6	105	92	138	100	165	156	211	211	197	249	210
Feb-Apr 1977	135.6	107	67	130	88	166	148	203	204	189	277	202
Percentage change	−4	+1½	−26	−6	−12	+½	−5½	−3½	−3½	−4½	+11	−4

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates. † Includes North Sea production installations.

TABLE 11 Imports: unit value indices
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment			
				Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Other
1976	288.6	247	704	239	260	267	217	237	232	227	253	249
1976 2nd quarter	281.4	243	686	230	248	262	210	234	230	225	251	242
3rd quarter	296.4	246	728	247	266	274	226	246	242	237	262	258
4th quarter	318.9	268	768	268	295	296	240	265	258	251	287	284
1977 1st quarter r	327.6	280	790	277	310	302	248	264	258	248	297	280
1977 February	327.2	279	789	277	311	299	248	263	257	249	290	278
March r	331.9	284	806	280	311	303	251	266	259	248	303	285
April p	334.9	288	801	285	313	303	259	268	261	251	302	287
1976 Nov-Jan	322.9	272	778	272	303	299	243	266	259	250	293	284
Feb-Apr 1977	331.3	284	798	280	312	302	253	266	259	249	298	283
Percentage change	+2½	+4½	+2½	+3	+3	+1	+4	—	—	−½	+2	—

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sharjah, etc, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

Other Developing Countries – All other countries.

10 Seasonally adjusted import figures for December and January. Because of difficulties of allowing fully in the seasonal adjustment procedure for the effects of the 1976/77 Christmas/New Year holiday period, the seasonally adjusted imports figures for December are probably understated and those for January correspondingly overstated. Exports are probably little affected.

Overseas Trade Statistics

Detailed particulars of United Kingdom imports and exports for April with cumulative totals will be published on 26 May* and further analysis of the figures will be found in tables 14.1 to 14.19 in the *Monthly Digest* for May†, due to be published in the second week of June.

Telephone inquiries concerning this article should be referred to: 01-215 3131 – Value data and 01-215 3466 – Indices.

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* *Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom*, published by HMSO, price £6.50 (Annual Subscription £93.60).

† *Monthly Digest of Statistics* published by HMSO, price £1.95 (Annual Subscription including Supplement of Definitions and postage £27.86).

TABLE 12 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products¶

On a Balance of Payments basis (Division 33 of SITC(R))

Seasonally adjusted

	Balance of visible trade	Imports					Exports		
		Total	Crude oil			Rest of Division 33	Total	Crude oil	Rest of Division 33
	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	million tons	Average value per ton £ fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob
1975	−3,106	3,827	3,069	85.6	35.9	758	721	30	691
1976	−3,964	5,126	4,092	85.7	47.8	1,034	1,162	177	985
1975 1st quarter	−774	949	759	22.2	34.3	190	175	7	168
2nd quarter	−682	840	696	20.7	33.8	144	158	2	156
3rd quarter	−785	976	800	22.4	35.6	176	191	5	186
4th quarter	−865	1,062	814	20.3	40.2	248	197	16	181
1976 1st quarter	−960	1,179	929	21.5	43.4	250	219	18	201
2nd quarter	−957	1,219	956	20.6	46.5	263	262	25	237
3rd quarter	−1,043	1,355	1,080	21.8	49.6	275	312	44	268
4th quarter	−1,004	1,373	1,127	21.8	51.9	246	369	90	279
1977 1st quarter	−814	1,265	1,010	18.9	53.4	255	451	162	289
1976 November	−407	541	452	8.7	52.6	89	134	37	97
December	−331	455	370	7.0	52.6	85	124	29	95
1977 January	−357	501	389	7.4	52.3	112	144	43	101
February	−204	354	285	5.4	53.3	69	150	51	99
March	−254	410	335	6.1	54.9	75	156	67	89
April p	−211	387	301	5.5	54.7	86	176	94	82
1976 Nov-Jan	−1,095	1,497	1,211	23.1	52.4	286	402	109	293
Feb-Apr 1977	−669	1,151	921	17.0	54.3	230	482	212	270
Percentage change		−23	−24	−27	+3½	−20	+20	+94	−7½

p Provisional estimates. ¶ See note 7.

TABLE 13 Derivation of the visible trade figures on a balance of payments basis

£ million

	Exports				Imports				
	Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†			Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†			
							Adjustments to BOP basis		
	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Coverage adjustments	Balance of Payments basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Valuation adjustments	Coverage adjustments	Balance of payments basis (fob)
1975	19,922	19,922	−543	19,379	24,128	24.128	−1,580	+26	22,574
1976	25,778	25,778	−484	25,294	31,213	31,213	−2,005	−322	28,886
1975 1st quarter	4,593	4,748	−104	4,644	5,883	5,950	−370	+11	5,591
2nd quarter	4,942	4,722	−111	4,611	5,832	5,573	−375	+68	5,266
3rd quarter	4,796	4,962	−154	4,808	5,998	6,190	−417	+2	5,775
4th quarter	5,591	5,490	−174	5,316	6,415	6,415	−418	−55	5,942
1976 1st quarter	5,818	5,740	−129	5,611	6,820	6,681	−435	−97	6,149
2nd quarter	6,393	6,310	−101	6,209	7,776	7,678	−502	−48	7,128
3rd quarter	6,260	6,500	−100	6,400	7,805	8,110	−525	−37	7,548
4th quarter	7,307	7,228	−154	7,074	8,812	8,744	−543	−140	8,061
1977 1st quarter r	7,674	7,562	−170	7,392	9,089	8,954	−573	−36	8,346
1976 November	2,491	2,376	−57	2,320	3,109	2,988	−186	−27	2,775
December	2 519	2,493	−45	2,448	2,891	2,907	−178	−67	2,662
1977 January r	2,345	2,533	−62	2,471	3,011	3,226	−209	−17	3,000
February r	2,390	2,506	−74	2,432	2,740	2,853	−178	−57	2,618
March r	2,940	2,522	−34	2,489	3,338	2,875	−186	+38	2,728
April p	2,575	2,734	−107	2,627	2,928	3,010	−179	−95	2,736
1976 Nov-Jan	7,355	7,402	−163	7,239	9,011	9,121	−573	−111	8,437
Feb-April 1977	7,905	7,762	−215	7,547	9,006	8,738	−543	−114	8,081
Percentage change	+7½	+5		+4½		−4			−4

† Components and totals are rounded independently. p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates

Wholesale price indices in April

Output prices

The provisional price index for the home sales of manufactured products increased by 1¾ per cent in April to 255.1 (1970 = 100).

The increased duty on cigarettes announced in the March budget was responsible for ½ per cent.

The index for manufactured products other than food, drink and tobacco again rose by 1 per cent. As in March there was little variation in the price rises between different sectors of industry. This index increased by 3¾ per cent in the latest three months compared with 3½ per cent in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Price rises for most glass products were largely responsible for the increase of 3 per cent in April in the index for the pottery and glass industries. This index has shown the largest increase, of 6¾ per cent, in the latest three months.

The index for the bricks and cement industries has also shown a large increase, of 6 per cent, since January with most products contributing.

Widespread price increases in the mechanical engineering, instrument engineering, electrical engineering and metal goods industries were responsible for increases between 1¼ and 1½ per cent in April in the indices for these sectors of industry.

Higher prices for tea and coffee were responsible for nearly half the increase of 2 per cent in the index for the food manufacturing industries.

The change in the index for all manufactured products measured over a 12-month period continued to rise, from 20¼ per cent in March to 20½ per cent in April.

Input prices

The provisional price index for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry rose by ½ per cent to 349.1.

The introduction of the new gas and electricity tariffs on 1 April was responsible for the increase of 3½ per cent in the index for coal, gas and electricity.

The index for materials purchased by manufacturing industry other than the food, drink and tobacco industries fell by ½ per cent. There was again little change in the exchange rate of sterling in April and few individual commodities showed price changes having a significant effect on the index. Lower prices for copper, tin and lead made the largest contributions. This index has risen by 1 per cent in the latest three months.

Price rises for both imported and home-produced materials contributed to the rise of 2¼ per cent in the index for materials purchased by the food manufacturing industries. Higher prices for tea, home-landed fish and imported oils and oilseed products were the most significant increases. These were partly offset by lower prices for imported wheat and cocoa.

The higher prices for liquid fuel (for furnaces) and for electricity accounted for more than half the increase of 4½ per cent in the index for fuel purchased by the food manufacturing industries. These price rises were also the main contributors to the increase of 2 per cent and 1¼ per cent in the indices of materials and fuel purchased by the pottery and glass industries and the bricks and cement industries respectively. Many of the indices of materials and fuel for other sectors of industry also reflected these price increases.

A steep increase in the price of coke was mainly responsible for the rise of 4½ per cent in the index for the steel industries.

Lower prices for mohair and wool offset the price rises for fuel in the index for the textile industries.

The fall of 3 per cent in the index for the non-ferrous metals industry was mainly caused by the lower prices for copper, tin and lead. The lower prices for copper and lead also offset higher prices for a range of materials and fuels purchased by the electrical engineering industries.

Notes

Several index series previously published in table 4(a) will now be published monthly in table 3(a).

New titles have been introduced for some series in table 3(a) and 4(a) to reduce possible confusion in their interpretation. There are no corresponding changes in the compilation of the indices.

Further information

Correspondence about wholesale price index numbers should be addressed to Statistics Division 4, Room 249, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB. Telephone inquiries for price index numbers should be made to 01-215 3544 (tables 1 and 2 indices), 3549 (engineering), 5216 (chemicals, steel, building materials, etc.), 3548 (textiles, clothing, timber, paper, etc.), 3173 (imported commodities).

Notes on wholesale price indices

1 Detailed notes on index numbers of wholesale prices were last shown in *Trade and Industry* of 9 April 1976.

2 The index numbers are constructed on a net sector basis. This is to say, the price movements used to compile the index for a particular sector of industry are only those relating to transactions between the sector and other sectors. Transactions between undertakings in the same sector are excluded. Thus index numbers for the whole of manufacturing industry are not weighted averages of sector index numbers.

3 All the index numbers are compiled exclusive of value added tax and (before its abolition) of purchase tax. Revenue duties (on cigarettes and manufactured tobacco, alcoholic liquor, matches and mechanical lighters) are included. The duty on hydrocarbon oils is excluded from output price series that cover these products (unless specifically noted to the contrary) but is included in series for materials and fuel purchased by sectors of industry.

4 Firm and provisional indices, at all levels of aggregation, include imputation for items for which there is no current price information. Additional provisional figures will be published for those indices where there are insufficient returns to allow accurate imputation.

5 Revisions to firm index numbers will only be made if they are significant. These revisions will be notified when the series are next published.

TABLE 1 Price index of materials purchased

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1976				1977	1976					1977			
		1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr p	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar p	Apr p
Orders III to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry:	266.5	292.6	306.8	329.9	341.5	286.3	314.4	327.7	331.8	330.2	337.8	339.5	347.2	349.1
	Materials†	272.5	299.2	314.6	339.7	351.6	292.2	323.0	337.6	341.8	339.8	347.9	349.7	357.3	358.6
	Coal (except for carbonising), gas and electricity	210.1	230.6	232.0	236.3	244.7	230.4	232.0	233.3	236.6	238.9	241.0	242.6	250.5	259.0
Orders IV to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry, other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	280.3	313.5	328.3	348.4	355.9	305.2	334.3	348.3	350.5	346.3	353.4	354.7	359.5	359.3
	Materials†	290.3	325.3	342.0	364.3	371.7	315.9	348.9	364.6	366.7	361.5	369.4	370.6	375.0	373.5
Order III	Materials and fuel purchased by the food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	235.4	246.8	257.3	283.1	302.9	245.3	265.6	274.4	285.2	289.6	297.4	299.9	311.4	319.8
	Materials and fuels purchased by selected broad sectors of industry:														
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	237.0	246.5	258.2	288.7	309.2	244.5	268.9	281.4	290.3	294.4	302.3	305.6	320.1	327.3
	Materials	237.3	246.5	258.3	289.5	310.3	244.5	269.5	282.3	291.0	295.1	303.1	306.5	321.3	328.2
	Fuel*	230.9	248.0	254.0	268.0	283.7	246.6	255.1	256.7	271.8	275.4	281.3	282.2	287.6	300.2
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	235.8	243.3	254.3	284.9	307.1	241.9	265.1	277.3	286.8	290.6	299.1	302.8	319.3	325.8
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	258.7	276.5	289.8	310.3	319.3	272.3	295.1	306.4	312.5	312.0	316.6	317.8	323.6	328.7
311 and 312	Steel industries	247.0	281.6	291.3	299.5	303.8	278.8	294.3	297.5	301.0	299.9	301.5	303.8 p	306.2	320.0
311 to 323	Non-ferrous metals industry	157.3	189.3	202.0	205.4	222.3	183.3	202.6	203.6	207.5	205.1	215.5	222.2	229.3	222.2
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering industries	226.6	245.1	260.6	274.9	283.7	240.6	263.2	271.9	275.5	277.3	281.8	283.6	285.6	287.7
Order IX	Electrical engineering industries	196.4	218.5	231.4	238.1	249.2	212.8	232.7	236.2	238.8	239.4	245.1	249.3	253.2	253.3
Order X	Shipbuilding and marine engineering industries	222.3	238.5	253.0	266.2	275.9	234.9	255.6	263.3	266.7	268.6	273.6	276.0	278.2	279.9
Order XII	Metal goods industries	234.4	258.3	272.3	291.4	298.2	253.4	275.5	287.7	293.3	293.3	294.2	297.6	302.8	303.7
Order XIII	Textile industries	232.4	255.9	275.1	298.8	298.5	248.3	281.4	296.9	301.2	298.2	298.6	299.3	297.7	297.8
Order XV	Clothing and footwear industries	197.4	209.1	219.1	231.0	241.0	205.6	222.9	228.1	232.0	232.8	239.0	241.3	242.6	245.8
461, 464 and 469	Bricks, cement, etc, industries	245.1	259.0	271.1	282.4	298.3	255.2	273.9	276.6	283.5	287.2	294.1	297.3	303.4	307.4
462 and 463	Pottery and glass industries	237.8	248.5	259.6	274.6	289.4	246.2	262.9	267.1	276.4	280.2	285.9	288.6	293.7	299.7
Order XVII	Timber industries	235.2	259.7	285.9	307.0	319.8	247.5	291.3	300.5	308.4	312.2	317.6	319.7	322.2	325.2
481 to 484	Paper industries	253.5	273.7	286.0	304.7	312.5	267.0	292.1	302.6	306.5	304.9	310.9	312.1	314.5	316.1
Order XX	Construction materials	227.2	242.5	258.2	271.5	283.9	235.7	261.4	267.8	272.1	274.5	279.5	284.8	287.5	290.5
Part of Order XX	House building materials	229.2	244.7	261.6	276.3	288.5	237.4	265.2	272.6	277.0	279.2	283.5	289.6	292.5	295.8

† Includes crude oil and coal for carbonising. * Includes petroleum products.

TABLE 1 (a) Price index numbers of materials and fuel purchased by selected sectors of industry

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1976				1977	1976					1977			
		1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr p	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar p	Apr p
361	Electrical machinery industry	211.5	230.9	245.2	256.2	264.1	226.0	247.3	253.9	256.7	258.0	261.9	264.1	266.3	267.6
362	Insulated wires and cables industry	152.1	179.3	191.4	187.0	198.6	172.2	189.4	187.3	187.6	186.0	193.5	198.4	203.8	202.0
364	Radio and electronic components industry	209.7	224.6	237.1	248.4	259.4	220.1	240.2	245.2	249.2	250.7	255.9	259.4	263.0	265.6
368	Domestic appliances industry	205.3	222.3	234.4	246.3	254.6	217.4	237.1	243.4	246.9	248.5	252.4	254.4	256.9	258.6
369	Electrical goods industries n.e.s.	200.7	219.6	231.6	240.9	254.1	214.5	233.9	238.7	241.3	242.6	249.1	254.3	259.0	259.1
381	Motor vehicle industry	229.6	247.4	261.7	276.3	285.1	241.8	265.6	273.3	277.0	278.5	282.9	285.4	287.1	289.2
411	Man-made fibres industry	231.1	248.1	259.0	275.8	277.7	244.2	264.5	273.7	277.1	276.5	276.3 r	277.5	279.3	282.0
414	Woollen and worsted industry	255.2	282.9	302.2	338.4	333.3	274.7	313.8	337.9	340.6	336.7	340.4	336.2	323.3	318.8
422/1	Household textiles and handkerchiefs industry	210.1	224.2	243.3	257.5	269.8	216.1	248.9	254.3	258.1	260.0	265.4	268.6	275.4	278.2
450	Footwear industry	198.3	214.7	222.9	231.6	239.3	211.8	226.6	229.7	232.2	232.8	236.2	240.2	241.6	244.1
481	Paper and board making industry	262.8	288.5	299.3	318.4	318.1	278.8	304.7	317.1	320.2	317.8	314.9	318.0	321.4	323.4

r = revision.

TABLE 2 Price index numbers of output (home sales)

1970=100

1968 SIC		1976				1977	1976					1977			
		1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr p	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar p	Apr p
Orders III to XIX	Output of manufactured products	206.9	214.4	223.2	233.9	248.0	211.5	226.3	230.0	234.6	237.2	244.9	248.2	250.8	255.1
Orders IV to XIX	Products of manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	214.5	222.0	230.8	241.2	254.5	219.3	233.6	237.0	242.0	244.5	251.0	254.9	257.6	260.4
	Output of selected broad sectors of industry														
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	215.2	222.2	233.8	252.2	267.3	219.3	240.7	248.4	252.5	255.8	263.9	267.1	270.9	276.3
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	215.5	220.5	230.2	247.3	262.5	218.7	237.2	244.1	247.5	250.4	259.3	262.2	266.1	271.9
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	206.5	213.7	221.0	228.8	239.6	211.2	223.4	226.1	228.8	231.5	237.8	239.5	241.6	244.8
Order VI	Metal manufacturing	217.7	240.6	259.1	271.8	282.1	234.4	261.3	269.9	272.4	273.2	278.9	282.2	285.3	285.2
311 and 312	Steel industries	237.3	260.3	281.8	300.2	307.9	255.3	283.8	298.1	301.2	301.4	306.6	307.9	309.3	309.4
Orders VII to XII	Engineering and allied industries	209.9	217.7	226.6	236.3	248.1	214.7	229.4	232.8	237.0	239.0	244.1	248.4	251.7	254.4
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering	218.6	226.1	235.4	244.5	255.8	223.4	238.0	241.8	244.7	247.0	252.6	255.5	259.3	262.9
Order VIII	Instrument engineering	184.9	190.9	196.7	203.7	211.5	190.4	199.4	201.0	203.5	206.7	210.1	211.7	212.6	215.1
Order IX	Electrical engineering	191.5	199.1	205.8	214.1	222.9	196.8	208.3	212.6	214.4	215.4	220.1	222.7	225.8	228.5
Order XI (excluding MLH 383)	Vehicles	227.7	236.8	247.6	260.0	277.2	232.1	251.7	253.0	262.1	265.0	268.9	279.9	282.9	284.2
Order XII	Metal goods industries n.e.s.	215.7	227.1	238.3	253.6	263.5	223.4	241.2	249.6	255.0	256.1	261.2	263.6	265.8	269.1
Order XIII	Textile industries	193.0	201.1	209.6	219.9	234.9	197.8	212.2	217.2	220.2	222.4	232.4	235.2	237.1	239.6
Order XV	Clothing and footwear	176.6	180.3	186.4	193.7	202.4	179.1	189.0	192.2	194.2	194.8	201.5	202.3	203.3	204.8
441 to 445 and 449	Made-up clothing	172.6	175.9	180.2	188.5	195.5	175.2	183.0	187.1	188.8	189.6	195.1	195.5	195.9	196.3
461, 464 and 469	Bricks, cement, etc, industries	231.5	243.1	254.3	265.6	279.8	237.6	257.2	261.2	265.7	270.0	273.4	280.6	285.5	289.6
462 and 463	Pottery and glass industries	215.4	223.2	230.2	241.5	251.4	221.3	232.6	239.7	241.8	243.0	247.2	251.2	255.9	263.6
Order XVII	Timber industries	218.7	225.5	235.7	248.5	266.6	222.9	239.3	244.0	247.8	253.6	261.7	266.9	271.1	273.4
481 to 484	Paper industries	235.4	242.4	254.6	266.0	278.6	239.4	260.9	262.2	265.7	270.1	277.7	278.5	279.5	282.2
Order XX	New construction ‡	238	246	263											

‡ Index of building costs relate to average for the quarter (*Department of Environment*).

British Labour Statistics: Historical Abstracts 1886–1968

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HMSO BOOKS

TABLE 3 (a) Commodities produced in the United Kingdom (as published monthly)

1970=100

1968 SIC		1976	1977			
		Apr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar. p	Apr. p
Mining and quarrying						
101	Coal	350.2	356.1	356.3	401.0	402.9
102	Stone and slate quarrying and mining	252.8	296.0	299.1	301.0	303.6
102/1	Granite and limestone roadstone	240.7	275.4	278.4	281.8	284.5
	Coated limestone roadstone	295.8	351.5	358.2	361.1	366.0
	Granite and other chippings	224.2	249.3	254.2	255.4	255.4
103	Chalk, clay, sand and gravel extraction					
	Sand and gravel – ex pit or works	209.8	259.2	275.9	276.4	276.4
	Sand and gravel – delivered	182.9	209.6	228.0	229.3	229.3
Food, drink and tobacco						
240	Tobacco	156.0	190.6	190.6	190.6	190.6
Coal and petroleum products						
261	Coke ovens and manufactured fuel					
	Foundry coke	404.2	404.2	404.2	468.7	468.7
262	Mineral oil refining					
	Petroleum products	378.9	475.3	475.5	475.5	476.2
	Motor spirit two star (including duty) ø	200.8	221.4	221.4	222.4	237.8
	Medium fuel oil (950-secs including duty) ø	346.4	462.9	462.9	464.2	485.3
	Derv fuel (including duty) ø	185.3	217.0	217.0	218.0	234.2
263	Lubricating oils and greases	238.9	269.7	276.1	281.6	281.6
Chemicals and allied industries						
271	General chemicals	235.5	268.8	271.0	275.1	278.6
271/1	Inorganic chemicals (including inorganic gases)	230.3	258.8	261.6	269.1	272.5
271/2	Organic chemicals (including organic gases)	258.1	297.4	298.2	298.9	303.2
272	Pharmaceutical chemicals and preparations					
	Pharmaceuticals chemicals	204.4 r	229.4	242.5	248.4	253.3
	Pharmaceutical preparations	184.4	208.0	209.7	210.6	213.7
273	Toilet preparations	185.0	206.5	210.7	212.2	213.8
274	Paint	221.5	238.8	240.2	242.0	242.7
276	Synthetic resins and plastics materials and synthetic rubber					
276/1	Synthetic resins and plastics materials	201.6	232.9	234.2	235.9	240.1
	Polyolefin moulding materials	210.7	245.7	245.7	246.6	249.6
	Polyvinyl chlorides	223.6	262.7	263.6	266.6	270.1
279	Other chemical industries					
279/3	Explosives, fireworks etc	241.1	275.0	275.3	277.9	279.1
Metal manufacture						
311/2	Steel					
	Steel sheets	231.6	289.2	286.8	286.3	286.3
	Electrical steel sheets	236.7	296.0	296.9	296.9	296.9
	Stainless steel sheets	166.1	234.6	235.4	235.4	235.4
	Uncoated steel sheets (other than stainless and electrical)	242.4	299.7	296.0	295.2	295.2
	Galvanised steel sheets	238.7	289.9	289.9	289.9	289.9
	Tinplate	241.4	274.0	290.8	303.4	303.4
	Semi-finished steels	278.7	348.5	348.6	348.6	348.6
	Semi-finished steels for forgings (other than drop forgings)	275.1	362.5	363.3	363.3	363.3
	Semi-finished steels for alloy stainless products (except sheets and tubes)	242.7	302.8	303.1	303.1	303.1
	Semi-finished steels for drop-forgings and stampings	284.3	352.2	352.2	352.2	352.2
	Semi-finished steels for tubes	288.1	359.7	359.8	359.8	359.8
	Semi-finished steel for forgings (other than drop forgings) (using Public Sector indicators)	282.2	360.1	360.1	360.1	360.1
	Finished steels (other than sheets, tinplate, tubes, forgings and castings)	258.2	313.6	314.8	315.2	315.2
	Steel wire rods	255.3	319.7	319.7	319.7	319.7
	Heavy steel rails and fishplates	284.4	346.7	347.7	347.7	347.7
	Steel plates (alloy)	276.4 r	284.8	284.8	284.8	284.8
	Steel plates (non-alloy)	262.0	303.5	303.5	303.5	303.5
	Steel sheet piling	266.2	330.7	331.4	331.4	331.4
	Heavy steel bars and sections	264.5	331.3	332.4	332.4	332.4
	Light re-rolled bars and sections	261.7	333.6	333.6	333.6	333.6
	Hot rolled steel strip	286.4	356.9	356.9	356.9	356.9
	Bright steel bars (non-alloy)	259.3	315.7	315.7	315.7	315.7
	Cold rolled steel strip (non-alloy)	258.7	287.8	287.8	287.8	287.8
	Alloy steel bars and rods, black (excluding stainless)	229.4	279.1	279.1	279.1	279.1
	Finished stainless steels	199.8	249.1	256.1	256.1	256.1
	High speed tool and magnet steel	231.0	262.6	277.5	291.4	291.4
	Steel castings	238.1	279.2	279.5	285.5	285.5
	Carbon steel castings	237.5	283.5	283.8	293.5	293.5
	Stainless and heat resisting alloy steel castings	209.1	239.0	239.0	240.9	240.9
	Other alloy steel castings	265.8	306.4	306.9	308.7	308.7
	Structural steel	264.5	321.1	321.5	321.5	321.5
	Forgings (other than drop forgings)	320.4	384.9	388.7	389.8	391.8
312	Steel tubes					
	Steel tubes and fittings	274.5	310.9	310.9	311.6	311.6
	Steel tubes (other than electric conduit tubes)	276.2	312.2	312.2	312.8	312.8
	Non-alloy steel tubes, hot finished	294.9	325.0	325.0	325.0	325.0
	Pipe fittings	252.2	279.7	279.7	279.7	279.7
313	Iron castings etc.	270.2	306.0	306.8	309.4	312.8
313/3 and 313/4	Iron castings	263.4	297.3	298.3	301.4	305.3
313/4	Other iron castings					
	Cast and spun iron pipes and fittings	286.0	310.3	312.5	323.0	330.6
321	Aluminium and aluminium alloys					
	Wrought aluminium	198.2 r	258.1	267.7	271.6	273.6
	Aluminium : Rolled	180.5 r	257.6	271.7	273.1	273.1
	Extruded and drawn aluminium products – other than wire	193.4 r	267.7	275.2	280.1	280.1
	Aluminium : Castings	224.4	260.6	268.5	272.3	278.8
	Aluminium : Forgings	190.6	231.0	231.0	242.6	242.6
322	Copper, brass and other copper alloys					
	Copper tubes	140.4	165.3	170.8	174.9	176.9
	Brass ingots	164.9	167.2	170.3	177.0	171.5

TABLE 3 (a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1976	1977			
		Apr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar. p	Apr. p
Mechanical engineering						
331	Agricultural machinery	225.8	275.0	276.2	278.8	283.2
	Soil preparation and cultivating machinery	232.4	272.5	273.3	276.0	279.4 e
	Harvesting, threshing, feed-processing machinery etc.	231.6	285.0	286.5	290.1	293.1 e
	Pick-up balers	237.4	282.7	287.7	289.8	290.9 e
	Hay and silage making machinery	187.5	225.5	225.5	225.5	225.5 e
	Grinding mills and meal mixers	226.0	259.9	265.5	272.2	278.9 e
	Milking machines	208.4	264.2	264.2	264.2	274.1 e
	Other agricultural machinery (spraying machinery, general purpose elevators and conveyors etc)	213.0	252.2	253.5	254.3	262.6 e
332	Metal-working machine tools	241.1	274.5 p	276.9 p	279.6	284.9 e
332/1	Metal-cutting machine tools	245.7	278.3 p	281.0 p	282.3	288.1 e
332/2	Metal-forming machine tools	230.8	266.4	268.6	271.9	280.5 e
333	Pumps, valves, compressors, fluid power equipment	223.5	241.3 p	243.8 p	248.8	252.3
333/1	Pumps	209.6	227.8 p	232.6 p	232.8	238.2
	Kerbside petrol and oil measuring pumps	203.5	219.8	221.2	222.2	223.9 e
	Industrial pumps	210.0	228.3 p	233.3 p	233.4	239.1 e
	Centrifugal, turbine and axial flow pumps	211.4	233.5 p	241.0 p	241.2	244.9 e
333/2	Industrial valves	254.7	267.1 p	267.6 p	270.2	272.7 e
	Iron valves	249.2	275.3	276.7	280.1	280.7 e
	Steel valves	276.9	273.2 r	273.2	274.1	278.1 e
	Non-ferrous valves	231.0	252.0 p	252.2 p	256.5	258.7 e
333/3	Air and gas compressors	223.0	246.3	248.3	271.8	273.4 e
333/4	Fluid power equipment					
	Oil/hydraulic fluid power equipment	204.6	228.3	231.7 p	232.8	237.3 e
	Pneumatic fluid power and control equipment	175.8	193.5	196.0	205.1	207.9 e
334	Stationary internal combustion engines and steam turbines	222.1	251.7	255.4	260.0	265.0
336	Construction and earth-moving equipment	224.8	258.2	261.6	274.9	277.9
	Contractors' plant and parts	223.7	257.5	261.1	274.6	277.1 e
	Excavators, trenchers, diggers, etc.	244.8	285.2	286.0	307.7	311.5 e
	Concrete mixers	222.5	242.3	244.3	259.6	263.4 e
	Dumpers	219.0	247.4	250.3	262.0	262.5 e
	Crawler tractors	198.2	237.9	244.0	250.1	252.9 e
	Crushing and screening plant and parts	232.8	259.7	259.7	269.7	280.0 e
337	Mechanical handling equipment	217.6	243.4 p	245.9 p	250.9	254.4
337/2	Cranes	212.8	246.6	250.2	251.1	252.1
337/4	Lifting and winding devices	220.0	250.7	256.0	256.9	259.4
337/5	Powered industrial trucks and tractors	225.6	260.2 p	261.7 p	266.7	270.0
339/1	Mining machinery	196.8	220.3	223.9	224.0	228.4 e
339/3	Commercial and industrial refrigeration machinery	219.8	251.3	251.7 p	266.9	269.1
339/5	Scales and weighing machinery	239.3	258.8	263.8	264.8	265.1 e
339/6	Portable power tools	201.9	229.6	231.2 p	236.2	232.8 e
339/7	Food and drink processing machinery	210.7	246.4 p	247.9 p	248.5	259.8
339/8	Bottle washing, bottling, packaging, labelling and canning machinery	215.6	242.0	244.3	245.3	255.1
339/9	Miscellaneous machinery	214.7	247.5 p	251.0 p	253.5	256.7 e
Instrument engineering						
352	Clocks, watches and time recorders	206.3	231.6 p	237.2 p	237.2	239.2
354	Scientific and industrial instruments and systems	191.7	210.6	212.2	213.2	215.3 e
354/1	Optical instruments					
	Microscopes	193.4	194.9	194.9	216.2	216.2 e
354/2	Other scientific and industrial instruments					
	Process measuring and control instruments	197.6	221.4	221.4	221.5	222.4 e
	Analytical instruments	178.3	197.4	197.5	198.2	199.8 e
	Spectrophotometers and absorptiometers	150.5	163.3	163.3	164.8	166.2 e
	Electrical testing, measuring and control instruments	186.9	199.7	202.3	202.7	206.0 e
Electrical engineering						
365	Broadcast receiving and sound reproduction equipment	145.0	158.2 p	159.0 p	159.2	160.8 e
365/1	Gramophone records and pre-corded tapes	177.0	197.0	197.0	197.0	197.0 e
	Gramophone records	182.6	203.5	203.5	203.5	203.5 e
	Pre-recorded tapes – cassettes	180.6	199.7	199.7	199.7	199.7 e
	Pre-recorded tapes – cartridges	153.6	170.1	170.1	170.1	170.1 e
365/2	Other broadcast receiving and sound reproduction equipment	141.5	154.0 p	154.8 p	155.0	156.8 e
	Domestic television receivers†	142.6	156.1 p	156.9	156.9	158.5 e
	Domestic television receivers – colour†	131.2	141.5 p	141.6 p	141.6	142.7 e
	Domestic television receivers – monochrome†	145.9	160.3 p	161.3 p	161.3	163.0 e
	Record players and tape recorders	139.3	148.7 p	148.1 p	148.1	149.4 e
368	Domestic electrical appliances	176.7	201.4	202.0	208.7	212.8
	Domestic electrical cooking appliances	185.3	209.9	210.1	217.4	223.6 e
	Electric cookers	183.3	208.1	208.1	216.5	224.5 e
	Domestic electrical heating appliances	189.4	215.9	215.9	217.9	222.5 e
	Electric fires	179.8	218.7	218.7	218.7	229.8 e
	Electric water heaters, wash boilers, etc.	241.9	264.6	264.6	273.7	278.3 e
	Electric vacuum cleaners and polishers	180.8	209.2	211.6	227.3	227.3 e
	Domestic electric flat irons	208.2	231.2	231.7	244.3	245.9 e
	Domestic refrigerators, gas and electric	169.1	194.0	195.5	197.7	200.7 e
	Domestic electric refrigerators	173.1	202.4	202.4	205.4	209.7 e
369/2 and 369/3	Batteries and accumulators	207.4	248.2	253.9	262.1	267.3 e
369/4	Electric lamps and fluorescent tubes	188.4	201.8	214.2	218.8	218.8 e

TABLE 3 (a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1976	1977			
		Apr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar. p	Apr. p
Vehicles						
380	Wheeled tractors	275.8	332.3	339.7	344.1	350.7
381	Motor vehicles					
	Passenger cars	224.8	259.5	272.1	274.4	274.4 e
	Passenger cars‡	205.0	236.6	248.1	250.2	250.2 e
	Commercial and public service vehicles	243.9	283.6	297.8	300.3	300.5 e
	Commercial vehicles	247.0	286.6	300.8	303.1	303.3 e
	Commercial vehicles and chassis not exceeding 3.5 tons Gross Vehicle Weight	245.6	284.8	299.6	302.3	302.3 e
	Commercial vehicles and chassis exceeding 3.5 tons but not exceeding 16 tons Gross Vehicle Weight	256.6	296.8	310.4	312.1	312.1 e
	Commercial vehicles and chassis exceeding 16 tons Gross Vehicle Weight	227.4	268.6	278.9	278.9	282.0 e
	Commercial vehicles not exceeding 1½ tons Gross Vehicle Weight	246.8	284.7	300.1	303.2	303.2 e
	Commercial vehicles and chassis over 1½ tons Gross Vehicle Weight	243.7	285.0	297.4	298.7	300.0 e
	Public service vehicles	244.7	275.1	289.9	295.0	295.0 e
Metal goods not elsewhere specified						
390	Engineers' small tools and gauges					
	Engineers' cutting tools	191.0	223.2	227.5	229.9	239.5
	Engineers' cutting tools: *diamond*	*162.7*	*187.4*	*191.6*	*191.6*	*191.6*
	Engineers' cutting tools and parts: *non-diamond*	193.1	225.2	229.9	231.6	242.0
	Hacksaw blades	191.5	234.4	234.4	250.2	258.7
391	*Hand tools and implements*	*232.0*	*273.2*	*276.9*	*283.1*	*292.4*
392	Cutlery and tableware, etc.	216.9	245.8	248.1	252.5	257.2
393	*Nuts and bolts, etc.*	*267.1*	*317.2*	*327.4*	*330.2*	*335.1*
	High tensile steel nuts and *bolts*	*283.1*	*335.4*	*345.7*	*348.7*	*353.9*
399	Metal industries not elsewhere *specified*					
399/1	Metal furniture, office and works equipment	198.7	229.2	232.6	234.1	234.8
	Metal non-domestic furniture	207.2	239.9	241.9	244.0	245.0
	Metal chairs	185.2	200.7	202.9	207.1	211.2
	Metal cabinets	201.3	232.9	235.5	235.5	235.5
399/2	Metal windows and door frames					
	Metal windows and curtain walling	313.9	396.6	398.4	400.4	403.0
399/9	Domestic gas appliances	175.6	209.2	210.1	210.4	212.1
	Gas cookers	174.5	209.7	211.1	211.1	211.1
	Gas water heaters and wash boilers	189.4	230.1	230.6	232.0	237.3
	Gas fires and space heaters	172.2	199.6	199.6	200.1	203.8
	Gas water heaters and gas fires	177.0	208.0	208.2	208.9	213.1
399/12	Miscellaneous metal goods					
	Catering equipment	200.4	231.8	234.5	235.1	242.8
	Plumbers' brassware	185.9	210.1	211.6	214.3	215.7
	Domestic oil burning appli- ances	215.3	259.8	259.8	259.8	265.1
Textiles						
411	Man-made fibres production	171.8	191.3	192.4	193.5	197.2
412	Spinning and doubling on the cotton and flax systems	201.2	243.1	244.6	247.5	249.4
	Cotton yarns, cotton-spun man-made fibres yarns and mixtures of both	224.0	276.2	278.1	281.5	283.8
413	Weaving of cotton, linen and man-made fibres	210.8	246.6	249.4	252.5	255.3
	Woven cotton cloth in the loomstate	212.4	259.5	264.3	267.2	269.8
	Man-made fibres fabrics in the loomstate	207.6	230.3	231.4	232.0	235.1
414	Woollen and worsted	226.3	277.3	279.3	280.4	282.4
414/2	Worsted spinning	213.6	263.5	264.9	267.7	266.7
	Yarns of wool spun on the worsted system	222.6	282.1	283.0	286.6	285.4
	Yarns of man-made fibres spun on the worsted system	180.2	201.5	203.8	205.7	206.2
417	Hosiery and other knitted goods	165.6	189.2	192.5	193.9	196.3
419	Carpets and rugs	202.0	237.3	239.2	241.6	243.6
	Carpets	201.8	237.2	238.7	241.0	243.1 e
	Carpets – woven	219.4	262.8	264.0	265.8	268.6 e
	Tufted carpets	167.0	186.5	188.8	192.0	192.8 e
429	Other textile industries					
429/1	Asbestos manufactures	197.4	232.5	233.4	241.9	242.1
Leather, leather goods and fur						
431/1	Leather for footwear	200.8	211.0	215.7	215.7	218.2
Clothing and footwear						
450	Footwear – including rubber *footwear*	*188.9*	*218.9*	*220.9*	*222.8*	*225.6*
Bricks, pottery, glass, cement etc						
461	Bricks, fireclay and refractory goods	242.4	280.4	284.4	295.0	300.0
461/1	Refractory goods including bricks	242.4 r	292.2	294.2	309.1	318.4
461/2	Non-refractory goods including building bricks	242.3	274.8	279.9	288.4	291.4
	Building bricks – delivered	251.6	287.8	296.5	296.8	300.5
	Engineering bricks – delivered	280.2	310.6	314.5	319.3	320.4
463	Glass	222.7	251.7	254.5	260.5	269.2
463/1	Glass other than containers	220.8	248.8	252.9	254.4	259.1
	Flat glass (including safety and silvered glass)	218.6	241.4	247.3	248.4	256.0
	Glazing sheet and plate glass	*197.8*	*226.3*	*232.8*	*232.8*	*244.7*
463/2	Glass containers	225.4	256.0	256.8	269.5	284.2
464	*Cement*	*243.4*	*270.4*	*279.9*	*280.6*	*280.6*
	Cement – delivered in bulk	249.9	269.8	279.8	280.6	280.6
	Cement – delivered in bags	249.9	271.7	280.1	280.7	280.7
469/2	Building materials not elsewhere *specified*	*237.8 r*	*273.8*	*282.3*	*285.5*	*289.1*
	Precast concrete products	227.3	261.0	268.0	271.2	272.3
	Precast concrete pipes – delivered	263.9	307.9	319.4	319.6	323.3
	Precast concrete manholes – delivered	212.8	240.1	248.2	248.6	252.5
	Plaster gypsum	*212.1*	*243.9*	*243.9*	*243.9*	*258.0*
	Mastic asphalt	206.9	266.3	266.2	266.2	280.5
Timber, furniture etc						
471/1	Timber sawmilling					
	Homegrown hardwood – sawn	234.2	271.7	279.0	280.3	281.9
471/2	*Building joinery*	250.0	312.0	315.2	319.8	322.7
	Timber structures and struc*tural components*	*242.6*	*314.9*	*318.4*	*319.4*	*320.3*
	Door sets, doors and door *frames (excluding hard-* wood doors architecturally designed)	242.3	317.2	325.1	328.0	331.1
	Windows and window frames (wood)	278.2	326.8	326.8	343.1	353.2
	Other building joinery (ie architectural and general joinery)	245.7	330.7	330.7	333.3	333.3

TABLE 3 (a) *(continued*

1968 SIC		1976	1977			
		Apr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar. p	Apr. p
472	Furniture and upholstery	206.8	231.9	236.9	240.8	243.8
	Domestic furniture	203.3	227.0	232.8	235.8	239.0 e
	Bedroom furniture	187.2	207.3	210.0	213.8	215.4 e
	Bookcases, bookshelves, bureaux, occasional furniture	205.3	229.7	239.3	242.4	244.0 e
	Dining room furniture	210.4	234.0	244.2	245.4	246.9
	Kitchen furniture	224.7	262.6	264.7	271.3	280.8 e
	Upholstered furniture	193.8	210.5	218.7	219.2	220.1
473	Bedding etc.	225.0	250.6	270.9	272.7	272.7
	Upholstered spring interior mattresses	231.0	252.1	278.5	278.5	278.5
	Divan sets	250.0	273.4	290.4	292.8	292.8 e
Paper, printing and publishing						
481	Paper and board	233.4	284.1	284.3	284.4	288.2
	Printings and writings – excluding newsprint	227.6	285.8	285.8	285.8	285.8
482	Packaging products of paper, board and associated materials					
482/1	Cardboard boxes, cartons and packing cases – fibreboard	239.4	272.6	273.3	275.1	277.3
482/2	Packaging products of paper and associated materials					
483	Manufactured stationery	238.0	285.3	288.8	289.7	290.6
484	Manufactures of paper and board not elsewhere specified					
484/1	*Wallpaper*	225.1	239.1	239.1	240.9	244.3
489	Other printing, publishing, bookbinding, etc.					
	General printing, bookbinding, etc.	203 3	223.3	225.7	227.0	227.2
Other manufacturing industries						
491	*Rubber manufactures*					
491/1	Rubber tyres and tubes	191.6	224.3	232.2	235.9	242.1
492	Linoleum, plastics, floor covering and leathercloth					
	Linoleum and felt base	202.4	221.1	226.3	226.3	226.3
102/1 and 103 Part	Aggregates for concrete	204.2	227.1	230.3	232.7	233.9
312 361/2 362 369/5 Part	Electrical installation materials, domestic	195.8	230.9	234.9	236.9	239.8
338 399/1 399/3 472 Part	Office equipment and machinery					
399/1 472 Part	Office furniture					
412 414 Part	All spun man-made fibres yarns	189.2	215.0	216.6	219.4	220.8

ø Index based on scheduled outer zone prices for minimum bulk loads of 500 gallons (motor spirit 1,000 gallons) exclusive of rebates.
p Provisional
e Estimates which are subject to possible major revisions.
† Excludes sales to rental companies.
‡ Inclusive of purchase tax (before its abolition), VAT and Car Tax.
r Revised.

Addendum
Confirmation of figures previously published as provisional.

		1976
		Dec
339/8	Bottle washing, bottling, packaging, labelling and canning machinery	232.6
352	*Clocks, watches and time recorders*	220.5

TABLE 3 (b) Commodities wholly or mainly imported into the United Kingdom

1970 = 100

	1976	1977			
	Apr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar. p	Apr. p
Hides and skins	307.7	372.5	376.6	385.5	395.8
Non-ferrous metals:					
Aluminium, virgin ingot delivered	173.0	241.5	246.2	246.2	246.2
Copper‡	*138.6*	*138.4*	*141.2*	*149.3*	*140.9*
Lead‡	194.2	255.6	298.1	328.3	297.4
Nickel§	201.6	264.5	260.0	261.5	259.9
Tin, ingot min. 99.75%‡	*251.4*	*361.7*	*390.8*	*400.4*	*361.5*
Zinc‡	346.9	325.9	333.4	343.7	308.9
Zinc§	336.4	362.9	363.4	361.8	361.4
Natural rubber	*240.1*	*281.6*	*282.9*	*283.0*	*273.4*
Sulphur, crude cif (for acid making)	297.1	297.2	297.2	297.2	297.2
Textiles:					
Raw cotton, all types	291.5	385.3	403.5	404.4	400.4
American types, cif Liverpool	299.1	381.8	406.8	416.3	413.0
Egyptian types, cif Liverpool	*253.7*	*402.5*	*387.1*	*345.2*	*337.8*
Raw wool – all types	276.1	364.5	357.2	354.0	348.0
Imported	273.0	358.9	349.7	343.8	339.9
Imported, merino	244.6	323.7	318.5	313.7	311.8
Imported, fine crossbred	*278.5*	*360.9*	*348.4*	*341.8*	*334.5*
Imported, medium and coarse crossbred	*351.7*	*462.5*	*447.3*	*439.3*	*433.7*
British types	293.4	396.2	399.4	411.1	393.9
Timber:					
Imported hardwood (ex-yard or wharf)	269.0	336.2	341.4	346.7	351.2 e
Imported plywood (delivered to consumers)	247.3	324.9	326.7	326.5	328.4 e
Imported softwood (delivered to consumers)	271.8	381.7 r	382.5	385.3	386.7 e
Woodpulp, imported	*323.1*	*352.2*	*353.2*	*351.9*	*349.4*

‡ LME settlement price. § Producer's price. p provisional. e estimates which are subject to possible major revision. r revised.

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TABLE 5 United Nations index numbers of world export prices(1)

1970 = 100

	Primary commodities											
	Total			Agricultural non-food			Non-ferrous metals			*Primary commodities* and non-ferrous metals (2)		
	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies
1974 1st quarter	303	318	274	232	244	209	160	168	144	284	298	256
2nd quarter	304	304	263	229	229	198	183	183	159	283	287	249
3rd quarter	309	315	274	221	225	196	142	145	126	287	292	254
4th quarter	320	330	284	212	213	186	126	130	111	294	303	258
1975 1st quarter	312	313	261	201	202	168	124	124	101	287	287	240
2nd quarter	299	309	250	198	204	166	121	125	101	275	284	230
3rd quarter	295	333	261	196	220	173	118	133	105	271	306	240
4th quarter	301	354	271	191	224	172	116	136	104	276	324	249
1976 1st quarter	306	368	279	202	243	184	120	144	109	281	338	256
2nd quarter	310	412	289	212	282	198	135	179	126	286	381	267
3rd quarter	314	427	291	228	310	212	140	190	130	291	395	270
4th quarter (3)	315	458	289	232	337	213	131	190	120	290	422	267
1977 *1st quarter (4)*	*345*	*483*	*315*	*244*	*342*	*222*	*147*	*206*	*134*	*318*	*446*	*291*
April (4)	*359*	*501*	*324*	*256*	*357*	*231*	*146*	*204*	*132*	*331*	*462*	*299*

(1) Published by the UN in terms of US dollars. For convenience the index numbers are also shown in sterling and in terms of purchasers' currencies by converting the dollar index at prevailing exchange rates. (2) This combined index is not published as such by the UN. (3) Provisional. (4) Projections by Department of Industry.

Turnover of the catering trades: first quarter of 1977

Catering turnover, at current prices and after seasonal adjustment, was 4 per cent higher in the first quarter of 1977 compared with the fourth quarter of 1976, and a little over 7 per cent above the average level in 1976.

Recent percentage increases compared with corresponding quarters a year earlier (at current prices but not seasonally adjusted) for the main kinds of business are:

	All caterers	Licensed hotels and holiday camps	Restaurants, cafes and fish and chip shops	Public houses	Canteens
1976 1st quarter	13	16	9	14	17
2nd quarter	17	20	11	18	14
3rd quarter	14	18	13	13	14
4th quarter	12	18	13	10 r	16
1977 1st quarter	15	22	15	12	16

Note:
The Easter bank holiday fell entirely in the second quarter in both 1976 and 1977.
r = revised figure.

Compared with the first quarter of 1976, catering turnover in the first quarter of 1977 increased by 15 per cent overall; the increases recorded for each kind of business were: licensed hotels and holiday camps 22 per cent, restaurants, cafes and fish and chip shops 15 per cent, public houses 12 per cent and canteens 16 per cent.

Notes

1 The figures for the first quarter of 1977 are from the first of the new quarterly inquiries into catering; previously the inquiries were monthly.

2 The seasonal adjustment factors for the all caterers index have been recalculated on a quarterly basis and using data up to December 1976.

Inquiries: 01-215 3177.

Turnover of all caterers, seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of turnover per week(1)
Value at current prices (turnover in 1969 = £2,533 million) 1969 = 100

	Year	1st qtr	2nd qtr	2rd qtr	4th qtr
1969	100	97	100	102*	103
1970	108	105	108	109	112
1971	118	115	117	119	122
1972	131	125	128	133	138
1973	148	142	146	150	153
1974	170	159	166	173	180
1975	201	187*	198	208	210
1976	230	215	229	237	237
1977		247			

(1) Turnover includes VAT; the quarterly periods consist of 13 weeks except * which are of 14 weeks. The first quarter 1977 period was the 13 weeks from 2 January 1977 to 2 April 1977; the first quarter 1976 period was the 13 weeks from 4 January 1976 to 3 April 1976.

Turnover of the catering trades in 1976: monthly estimates

Because of the change in periodicity, the first quarterly Business Monitor SD5 will contain only quarterly figures. The last monthly Business Monitor SD5 (for December 1976) contained only provisional estimates for October, November and December 1976 but the table below sets out the final monthly indices for 1976 for each kind of business. The seasonally adjusted all caterers series is based on the monthly seasonal factors in use in 1976 and is therefore not strictly comparable with the new quarterly seasonally adjusted series given above. There are some small revisions to earlier months of the year because the seasonally adjusted series is constrained to equal the unadjusted average for the year.

Turnover of the catering trades 1976: Index numbers of average weekly turnover(1)

1969 = 100

	Year	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Seasonally adjusted(2) All caterers	230	216	229	236	237	214	214	219	225	225	237	239	239	232	236	238	238
Kind of business (turnover in 1969)																	
Not seasonally adjusted Total all caterers (£2,533 million)	230	189	234	265	231	184	185	195	218	227	252	272	275	251	231	220	241
Licensed hotels and holiday camps (£408 million)	257	173	270	346	239	162	168	185	221	260	318	346	365	330	272	223	225
Restaurants, cafes, etc, and fish and chip shops (£623 million)	199	163	196	237	200	163	157	168	187	193	206	243	241	228	196	201	204
Public houses (£1,349 million)	240	206	246	263	246	202	204	210	235	235	262	273	274	247	237	228	267
Canteens (A) £153 million)	191	188	189	179	208	176	181	204	190	200	179	186	178	174	209	213	203

(A) Includes all catering contractors. (1) Includes VAT. (2) Using monthly seasonal adjustment factors consistent with previous articles.

Retail sales: final figures for March . . .

Volume

The final seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in March is 103.1 (1971 = 100), close to the provisional estimate of 103½.

The estimate suggests that trade in March was below the level of February, continuing the decline from the level of the second half of 1976. In the first quarter, the volume of sales was 3 per cent lower than in the fourth quarter of last year but changes in the pattern of Christmas and new year holidays and the effect of the December budget will have contributed to this fall.

For the main components of total trade, the volume of sales by durable goods shops in the first quarter was 8 per cent lower than in the fourth quarter of last year. Sales by clothing and footwear shops were little changed while sales by 'other non-food' shops, which include department stores and mail order businesses, fell by 2 per cent. Sales by food shops fell by 3 per cent between these periods.

Value

Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the value of total retail sales in March was 14 per cent higher than in March 1976. In the first quarter, the average value of sales was 14 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1976.

TABLE 1 Volume of retail sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of sales per week (average 1971 prices) 1971 = 100

(Sales in 1971 £ million Provisional estimates)		All kinds of business (15,895)	Food shops (6,693)	Non-food shops Total (9,202)	Clothing and footwear shops (2,314)	Durable goods shops (1,801)	Other non-food shops (†) (5,087)
1971		100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100
1972		105.8	101.5	109.0	105	115	109
1973		110.7	101.0	117.7	109	127	118
1974		109.9	101.8	115.9	107	123	117
1975		107.9	99.3	114.2	108	121	115
1976		108.1	99.1	114.6	108	124	114
1975	1st quarter	111.1	100.8	118.6	112	129	118
	2nd quarter	109.2	99.0	116.6	108	130	116
	3rd quarter	105.4	98.1	110.6	107	111	112
	4th quarter	105.7	99.1	110.4	105	113	112
1976	1st quarter	107.3	99.3	113.0	107	119	114
	2nd quarter	107.6	99.8	113.3	107	122	113
	3rd quarter	108.9	99.0	116.1	108	128	115
	4th quarter	108.5	98.2	116.0	108	128	115
1977	1st quarter	105.0	94.9	112.3	108	118	113
1976	January	110.2	99.6	118.0	113	125	118
	February	106.6	99.3	112.0	106	119	112
	March*	105.4	99.0	110.0	103	114	111
	April	108.8	101.5	114.1	108	125	113
	May	106.8	99.2	112.4	106	119	113
	June*	107.3	98.9	113.4	108	122	113
	July	108.8	99.7	115.5	108	128	115
	August	108.9	99.4	115.9	108	128	115
	September*	108.9	98.2	116.8	110	128	116
	October	108.1	98.0	115.4	107	129	115
	November	109.2	97.9	117.4	108	130	117
	December*	108.3	98.6	115.4	108	127	115
1977	January	106.7	94.2	115.8	113	123	115
	February	105.7	95.5	113.1	107	120	113
	March*	103.1	95.0	109.0	104	111	111
1976	Oct-Dec	108.5	98.2	116.0	108	128	115
1977	Jan-Mar	105.0	94.9	112.3	108	118	113
Percentage increase		−3.2	−3.4	−3.2	—	−8	−2

The indices for all shops, food shops, and total non-food shops are shown to the first decimal place to help interpretation, but should not be regarded as necessarily accurate to the final digit. The best indication of the recent trend is normally obtained by comparing the average index for the latest three months with the average for the immediately preceding three months, but month to month fluctuations may sometimes make it preferable to average two months or four months.

When using the volume figures, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

The monthly periods consist of four weeks except those marked* which are of five weeks. The March 1977 sales period was the five weeks from 27 February 1977 to 2 April 1977. The corresponding period in 1976 was the five weeks from 29 February 1976 to 3 April 1976.

The value estimates are compiled inclusive of VAT, and will, therefore, reflect changes in the rates of VAT. The volume estimates, however, are not affected by these changes since the retail price indices used to 'deflate' the value data are themselves inclusive of VAT.

Within the total, sales are analysed by 'kinds of business'; ie the statistics are of sales by particular kinds of shop rather than of sales of particular commodities. For example, while sales by shops classified as food shops are mainly of food, many of them also sell other goods. Similarly, some food is sold by shops classified to other kinds of business.

The seasonally adjusted series include, where appropriate, adjustments to make allowance for the inclusion of an extra week in the January 1975 trading period. (See Technical Note in *Trade and Industry* of 14 March 1975.)

The article giving the *provisional* estimate of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales for April and the increase in the value of sales compared with a year earlier will be published later this month.

TABLE 2 *Value of retail sales seasonally adjusted*

Index numbers of value of sales per week (current prices) 1971 = 100

(Sales in 1971 £ million Provisional estimates)		All kinds of business (15,895)	Food shops (6,693)	Non-food shops Total (9,202)	Clothing and footwear shops (2,314)	Durable goods shops (1,801)	Other non-food shops (†) (5,087)
1971		100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100
1972		112.0	108.9	114.2	112	118	114
1973		126.9	122.8	129.9	128	136	128
1974		146.7	144.5	148.2	149	143	150
1975		174.5	174.6	174.4	172	166	178
1976		200.3	204.4	197.3	190	186	205
1975	1st quarter	166.0	162.3	168.6	171	162	170
	2nd quarter	174.2	172.7	175.3	169	178	177
	3rd quarter	176.7	178.9	175.0	174	161	181
	4th quarter	181.7	185.5	178.9	173	165	186
1976	1st quarter	190.3	193.0	188.4	182	176	195
	2nd quarter	195.1	199.8	191.8	186	180	199
	3rd quarter	203.8	207.6	201.1	194	190	208
	4th quarter	211.9	217.3	208.0	199	197	216
1977	1st quarter	217.1	222.4	213.2	207	190	224
1976	January	193.7	191.4	195.4	189	184	202
	February	189.1	193.7	185.9	180	176	192
	March*	188.6	193.8	184.7	179	170	193
	April	196.2	201.1	192.6	186	185	198
	May	193.5	198.4	190.1	184	177	198
	June*	195.6	199.9	192.5	188	178	199
	July	200.2	204.1	197.4	190	189	204
	August	204.2	208.4	201.2	193	191	209
	September*	206.4	209.7	204.0	198	191	212
	October	207.7	212.3	204.3	195	196	212
	November	212.9	217.5	209.6	198	199	218
	December*	214.5	221.3	209.6	202	195	218
1977	January	217.6	218.6	216.9	214	196	226
	February	218.1	224.3	213.6	206	194	224
	March*	215.8	224.0	209.8	204	182	222
1976	Oct-Dec	211.9	217.3	208.0	199	197	216
1977	Jan-Mar	217.1	222.4	213.2	207	190	224
Percentage increase		2.5	2.3	2.5	4.4	−3.3	3.6

(†) Including department stores and mail order businesses.

Inquiries 01-215 3705.

. . . and provisional figures for April

Volume

The *provisional* estimate of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in April is 104 (1971 = 100), rather higher than the March level but below that of February. The volume of trade has been low since the beginning of this year and in the three months February to April was 4 per cent lower than in the previous three months.

Value

Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the *provisional* estimate of the value of total retail sales in April was 12 per cent higher than in April 1976. In the first four months of 1977, the average value of sales was 14 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1976.

Notes

The volume index is given to the nearest half per cent. The percentage increase in value compared with a year earlier is given to the nearest whole number.

continued on page 368.

'T & I' index inquiries

Readers wanting to know when articles and items of information were published in *Trade and Industry* should consult the published indexes which are issued free to subscribers. For material published in recent months, inquiries of this kind can be made to the Department of Industry Library's indexing section, tel. 01-215 5842. (Alternative no. 01-215 5051).

A detailed note on the method of computation of the provisional estimate was published in *Trade and Industry*, 21 February 1974.

Estimates are based on early returns to the monthly inquiry. These returns now cover approaching one half, by turnover, of information available at the final stage. Past evidence suggests that the average error (ignoring sign) in the provisional estimates will be about 0.5 per cent. However, as with all estimates based on partial data, caution must be exercised in interpreting a single month's figure.

	Retail sales: volume seasonally adjusted index (1971 = 100)		Retail sales: value not seasonally adjusted – percentage change compared with a year earlier
1976 1st quarter	107.3	1976 1st quarter	+15
2nd quarter	107.6	2nd quarter	+12
3rd quarter	108.9	3rd quarter	+15
4th quarter	108.5	4th quarter	+16
1977 1st quarter	105.0	1977 1st quarter	+14
1976 January	110.2	1976 January	+16
February	106.6	February	+14
March	105.4	March	+13
April	108.8	April	+6
1977 January	106.7	1977 January	+13
February	105.7	February	+15
March	103.1	March	+14
April	104 (prov.)	April	+12 (prov.)

When using the volume figures, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus the relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

The value estimates are compiled inclusive of VAT, and will, therefore, reflect changes in the rates of VAT. The volume estimates, however, are not affected by these changes since the retail price indices used to 'deflate' the value data are themselves inclusive of VAT.

The seasonally adjusted series include, where appropriate, adjustments to make allowance for the inclusion of an extra week in the January 1975 trading period. No adjustments are made to the non-seasonally adjusted data.

The provisional figures are made available by press notice in advance of this article. The final figures for April will be published in a press notice on Wednesday, 8 June 1977.

Inquiries: 01-215 3705.

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New companies registered in April

Details are given below of new companies registered in Great Britain during April 1977 showing nominal capital. The figures are exclusive of unlimited companies and companies limited by guarantee.

Companies registered in April 1977

Nominal capital	Total	Public companies	Private companies
Not exceeding £100	3,725	—	3,725
Over £100 but under £1,000	76	—	76
£1,000 but under £10,000	1,053	—	1,053
£10,000 but under £50,000	480	—	480
£50,000 but under £100,000	76	—	76
£100,000 but under £1,000,000	76	—	76
£1,000,000 and over	13	—	13
Total number	5,499	—	5,499
	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.
Total amount of nominal capital	41,860	—	41,860

Companies registered in 1976 and 1977

	1976		1977	
	Number	Nominal capital £ thous	Number	Nominal capital £ thous
January	3,476	21,780	3,225	30,825
February	4,088	19,228	4,330	34,505
March	6,190	41,680	5,843	49,266
April	4,150	22,354	5,499	41,860
May	4,343	25,095		
June	5,624	25,815		
July	4,954	58,659		
August	4,221	44,690		
September	4,377	25,342		
October	4,600	34,544		
November	4,667	60,549		
December	4,655	147,053		
Total	55,345	526,789		

Footwear industry: orders, deliveries and stocks

In the three months ended February 1977 deliveries were estimated to be the same on a seasonally adjusted pairage basis, as in the three months ended November 1976. Net new orders were 9 per cent higher than in the previous three months, while at the end of February orders on hand were 14 per cent up on the November 1976 level. The index of output in the three months ended February 1977 was 3 per cent higher than in the three months ended November 1976.

A detailed breakdown of manufacturers' deliveries by type of footwear in pairage and value terms, together with figures of exports, imports, consumers' expenditure, prices and employment is published in the Business Monitor Production series under the reference PQ 450.

The index of output is calculated from the value of total sales and work done by firms classified to the footwear industry (minimum list heading 450 of the standard industrial classification). In using the index numbers it should be borne in mind that when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant price value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent years.

The data on pairage and value relate to complete footwear only sold by manufacturers, classified to MLH 450 and to other industries (eg rubber) in the SIC, employing 25 or more persons.

Index of output: Orders on hand, net new orders, deliveries and stocks of complete footwear

Monthly averages or monthly totals

	Index of output 1970 = 100	Orders on hand (end period)		Net new orders			Deliveries			Stocks (end period)
		Million pairs	£ million	Million pairs		£ million	Million pairs		£ million	Million pairs
1966		33.6					16.4			
1967		37.8		16.5			16.1			
1968	113	41.6		17.3			17.0			
1969	108	34.6		15.9			16.5			
1970	100	38.9		16.6			16.2			
1971	108	32.5	55.7	15.7			16.2		23.8	19.4
1972	104	29.5	59.6	15.2		24.8	15.4		24.5	18.5
1973	108	46.2	85.2	17.1		30.5	15.7		28.4	16.5
1974	107	44.3	79.5	14.3		30.9	14.4		31.3	18.0
1975	101	38.8	91.8	13.2		36.2	13.7		35.1	15.8
1976	101	47.1	133.0	13.8		42.8	13.1		39.4	14.4
	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual
1975 1st quarter	106	36.2	63.2	11.9	11.0	31.3	14.6	14.6	36.7	18.3
2nd quarter	95	41.2	82.4	14.0	13.4	36.8	12.3	13.1	30.4	23.1
3rd quarter	101	33.1	70.0	11.4	13.9	33.1	14.1	13.8	37.2	17.4
4th quarter	101	38.8	91.8	15.5	14.6	43.4	13.6	13.4	36.1	15.8
1976 1st quarter	101	42.6	89.2	14.6	13.1	38.9	13.3	12.9	39.8	19.0
2nd quarter	99	46.3	107.5	12.8	12.8	40.4	11.5	12.4	34.3	20.9
3rd quarter	100	36.9	89.7	10.0	12.0	34.7	13.2	12.8	40.7	17.2
4th quarter p	105	47.1	133.0	17.8	17.1	57.3	14.4	14.2	42.9	14.4
1975 January	109	39.2	71.7	9.6	9.3	29.0	14.7	14.8	36.8	
February	110	33.8	63.2	9 4	8.9	29.1	14.8	14.7	37.6	
March	99	36.2	63.2	16.6	14.7	35.7	14.1	14.2	35.7	
April	91	40.3	75.2	17.2	13.1	43.8	13.1	12.9	31.9	
May	89	44.0	88.0	14.8	13.6	40.0	11.1	12.5	27.2	
June	105	41.2	82.4	9.9	13.5	26.5	12.8	13.9	32.1	
July	104	34.0	68.8	6.7	10.7	24.3	13.8	13.6	37.9	
August	98	33.0	67.5	11.3	15.5	30.0	12.3	13.6	31.3	
September	103	33.1	70.0	16.3	15.5	44.9	16.2	14.1	42.4	
October	102	38.5	87.2	21.8	16.2	59.9	16.4	13.6	42.8	
November	100	38.8	92.8	13.8	12.4	40.5	13.5	13.3	34.9	
December	102	38.8	91.8	10.9	15.4	29.7	11.0	13.2	30.6	
1976 January	105	38.9	88.2	13.2	13.4	33.9	13.1	13.8	37.6	
February	104	40.0	89.3	14.1	13.2	40.3	12.9	12.8	39.2	
March	94	42.6	89.2	16.5	12.8	42.5	13.9	12.1	42.6	
April	95	43.2	94.4	12.2	9.7	39.7	11.6	12.0	34.5	
May	103	48.0	108.4	15.9	15.4	47.0	11.1	13.1	33.0	
June	100	46.3	107.5	10.2	13.4	34.4	11.8	12.2	35.3	
July	94	40.8	90.7	6.3	10.3	20.2	11.8	12.2	37.0	
August	97	38.1	87.9	8.8	11.4	33.7	11.4	12.0	36.6	
September	105	36.9	89.7	15.1	14.2	50.3	16.2	14.1	48.5	
October p	103	45.2	111.8	24.0	19.3	67.8	15.7	14.3	45.8	
November p	101	46.2	126.1	15.7	12.7	59.2	14.7	13.1	44.9	
December p	111	47.1	133.0	13.6	19.2	45.1	12.7	15.2	38.2	
1977 January p	101	50.6	130.9	15.0	16.0	38.7	11.6	12.8*	40.9	
February p	107	52.9	133.9	16.0	15.0	51.4	13.6	13.4*	48.4	

p = Provisional.
* Based on early returns, seasonally adjusted deliveries in March are estimated to be 13½ million pairs.

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Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 13 May 1977.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
What's Up Nurse	BR/E 39136/15/5/82	84	11 May	Variety Film Distributors Ltd	Blackwater Film Productions Ltd, London
Movietone News 2501	BR/E 38862/15/5/82	8	13 May	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
			COMMUNITY		
Tentacles	EC 39137/15/5/82	102	11 May	Twentieth Century-Fox Film Co Ltd	A-ESSE Cinematographica SRL. Rome
Immoral Tales	EC 39138/15/5/82	103	12 May	New Realm Film Distributors Ltd	Argos Films Neuilly, France
In The Name of The Father	EC 39139/15/5/82	107	12 May	The Other Cinema	Vides Cinematographica Italy
			FOREIGN		
Kaadu (The Forest)	F 39134	123	9 May	Contemporary Films Ltd	L. N. Combines Bangalore
Zebra Force	F 39135	90	9 May	Tigon Film Distributors Ltd	FAI Cinema II Incorporated, Georgia

Index to statistics published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

(a) annually (m) monthly (q) quarterly

Air transport: trade by air (a)	16 Jul 76
Balance of payments	
current account (m)	This week
trends in invisibles	29 Apr 77
see also Overseas trade of the UK	
Business names and limited partnerships (a)	18 Feb 77
Capital expenditure:	
manufacturing, distributive and service industries (q)	1 Apr 77
by regions	18 Feb 77
Catering trades turnover (q)	This week
Census of production (a)	28 Jan 77
Chemicals industry activity (q)	1 Apr 77
Companies	
acquisitions and mergers (q)	13 May 77
insolvencies	6 May 77
liquidity (q)	11 Mar 77
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (m)	This week
N. Ireland (m)	4 Mar 77
rate of return on capital (a)	8 Oct 76
structure of company financing	4 Feb 77
Construction work overseas (a)	15 Oct 76
EEC economic indicators *see* Foreign trade	
Energy trends (m)	13 May 77
Engineering industries: sales and orders (m)	29 Apr 77
Film industry	
British Film Fund Agency returns (m)	6 May 77
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household consumption (q)	18 Mar 77
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (m)	This week
Foreign exchange: official reserves (m)	6 May 77
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Hire-purchase business (m)	13 May 77
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index numbers (m)	22 Apr 77
Scotland (q)	25 Mar 77
Wales (q)	28 Jan 77
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investment and earnings overseas (a)	25 Jun 76
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deliveries (q)	18 Mar 77
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production: quarterly analysis (q)	18 Mar 77
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car and commercial vehicle production (m)	6 May 77
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backrun (a)	11 Mar 77
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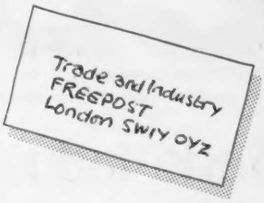

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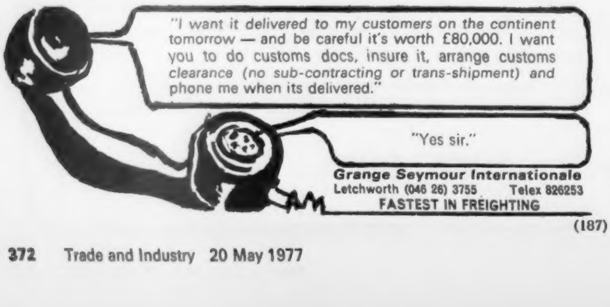
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